

Interview with CAPT James Morningstar Young, MC, USN, former White House Physician for Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. Conducted by Jan K. Herman, Historian, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery December 4, 10, 17, 2001, and January 7, 14, 23, 2002.

Interview 1

Where did you grow up, Doctor Young?

I grew up in Massillon, Ohio, in farm country. If you've never heard of football, you're in trouble. [laughter] It's where Paul Brown came from and my high school has a stadium that seats 20,000 and in my senior year playing football in Massillon I played before 287,000 people in ten games.

What position did you play?

Tackle. I have to go back a little bit. I was with my mother and father, I have one brother who is 12 years younger than I. I went to a two-room eighth-grade school house in farm country. I wanted to become a doctor at age 12. We were living with my grandmother in her home that my parents took over. My parents, one, my father went to the sixth grade and my mother went to the seventh grade. They were members of two families, each of which had six children and my father was the youngest of his family and my mother was in the middle in her family. So as such neither of them had gone to very much school. They had to go to work because their parents essentially came over from Germany and essentially required them to go to work. So after the sixth and seventh grade they were out doing their jobs and earning money for the family.

And I wanted to go to medical school and my father, who worked in the steel mill was what they called a "strander." He turned over the red-hot bars of steel and put them into the rolling mills, said, "Jim, I can't . . . no way that your mother and I will be able to send you to college; you're going to have to do it on your own." So he said, "and I don't think you're going to do very much out here in this school district because you go through the eighth grade out here and you won't get the advantage of playing football like you would in Massillon. And I think that since you're big enough and you have enough brains, you could probably get a football scholarship if you went down to Massillon. So let's go ahead and register you out of your aunt's house in downtown Massillon and we'll register you as living there and then you ride your bicycle to and from the school that you'll go to everyday and you'll be able to play football there."

So in the seventh grade I started at Longfellow Junior High School, and I rode my bicycle three miles one way and three miles the other way, rain, shine, sleet, snow, everything. My worst experiences, unfortunately, were snapping off bicycle pedals when it got icy and it was cold and the bicycle would slip off to the side when my one pedal was at the top of its turn and it would hit very hard and snap the pedal off. Fortunately, I had one aunt that lived about one-third of the way and the other uncle lived the other third of the way so if I got into trouble I could push my bicycle there and try to finagle a ride home with one of my parents.

Fortunately, they had the car home because my father worked in the steel mill on a swing shift kind of concept, so he worked a seven to three, three to eleven and eleven to seven, different shifts for different weeks. So that's my beginnings.

Had you . . . when did you decide you wanted to be a physician? Was that in your family anywhere?

At the age of 12. I was the second one in the family, in other words, in the third generation that came over, I was the second one . . . no, I was the first one of that generation to go through college. My uncle went through college on a football scholarship having graduated from Massillon-Washington High School. You guys don't know where Massillon is obviously.

That's Central Ohio?

Have you ever heard of Canton, Ohio?

Yes.

Why?

The Football Hall of Fame is there.

Right. Canton, Ohio. Well, Canton Bulldogs were one of the first pro teams. In order to have a football game what do you have to have? You're going to have two teams. Guess who the other one was? It was the Massillon Maroons. [laughter] But, of course, Massillon is so small, it's only about 24,000, and Canton is about 250,000 population. Guess where the Football Hall of Fame went?

Well, it didn't go to Massillon.

Nope. It went to the politicians' route. That's the usual way. But that's why I make the comment. We're only ten miles west of Canton, Ohio. The Massillon Maroons were one of the first football teams to play the Canton Bulldogs. I mean they were the opposition. So that's the claim to fame, is obviously football, but you may have heard of Paul Brown who started the Cleveland Browns.

Absolutely.

And then went to Cincinnati and was President of the Bengals. Well, he coached football for eight years before I came to Washington High School and he had eight years of undefeated seasons, believe it or not. I think I'm saying it correctly. But he was a magnificent high school football coach and he went directly from high school to the . . . I think it was Ohio State and then he went to Great Lakes, and from there on it's history. But he started out in Massillon on the football route. So, anyway, then I went through seventh, eighth and ninth grades at Longfellow Junior High School and in Massillon (There were three junior high schools in Massillon at that time), played football. I made the all junior high school team. And since Paul Brown had started the concepts and football there was remarkable because he had a system in which he had organized the three junior high schools in Massillon to have his particular brand of football and all the plays that he would run in high school. He would run them and teach the individuals in junior high school in the seventh and eighth and ninth grades. So by the time we got into the tenth grade in high school he could take the all-star team and probably beat half of the senior

high school teams in Ohio because we were all trained in the same fashion. And he had chosen the coaches for each one of the junior high schools. He was a magnificent organizer and I think that was the secret to his whole success in football. He was an organizer.

Where did you go to medical school?

I went to medical school at Duke University. I obviously graduated from Washington High School, I made the National Honor Society and I had, oh, probably 40 full scholarships offers because of making the National Honor Society and then I was Second Team All-Ohio as a tackle in football. I had offers from Northwestern, Michigan, Western Reserve, Washington Lee, University of Virginia, Georgia Tech, Tennessee, all kinds of them. Anyway, there was 30-40 offers that I had. I went to see five of the schools. I went to see Michigan. I went to see Case Western Reserve. At that time it was only Western Reserve. It's now combined as Case Western Reserve. I went to see Yale. I went to see Columbia. And I went to see Duke. Those were only the five that I went to see.

Why did you decide on Duke?

I decided to see those schools primarily because they had excellent medical schools and it was my intent that if I went to undergraduate school I would have a better chance of getting into medical school from the undergraduate level at a specific school, so therefore I chose schools that had excellent medical schools. That's one of the reasons that I went to Duke.

I went to Duke primarily because I didn't like particularly the snobbishness to a certain degree of Yale and Columbia was downtown New York. Case Western Reserve was fine but they didn't really play heavy football. University of Michigan was big and huge. Duke was not quite as large as all the rest of them and it also was a delightful campus, marvelous area and I had a wonderful time. And I did do a great job at Duke.

When did you begin your studies there at the medical school?

I began my studies in 1951. From 1947-51 I was in undergraduate school at Duke and during that time I did well in my studies. And also my senior year I was elected President of the Student Government Association and made quite a bang on that and made all kinds of national honoraries and so forth that got me, with my football, got me into medical school. I was drafted by the, at that time it was the Los Angeles Rams. They're now the Saint Louis Rams I think. Anyway, they were in Los Angeles and I asked them to trade my rights to Cleveland and they wouldn't do it.

So I said okay and I went to medical school instead. Actually in undergraduate school, because of the Korean conflict, the athletic director said to we individuals who had full football scholarships, "I want you all to join the Naval Reserve. We've got a Naval Reserve Unit right here in Durham, North Carolina, and you all join that. And then if they call up the reserves they'll call you all up at the same time and then when you get out again you'll all come back at the same time so we'll still have the same football group."

I joined the United States Navy as an enlisted seaman recruit all the way back in 1948. And I attended Reserve meetings weekly in the downtown Durham area and stayed on as a seaman recruit through, let's see, '48, '49, '50 and then in '51 I applied to medical school. But to my horror, in 1951 I received through the mail greetings from Uncle Sam. I got active duty orders to go to I think it was Bainbridge, Maryland at the time. They wanted to turn me into

a corpsman, and lo and behold, I had already applied to medical school of course. So I immediately tore up to medical school and talked to the secretary who was the right hand of the Dean of the Medical School and I said, "What am I going to do?" I've got active duty orders to go to Bainbridge, Maryland, as a seaman recruit and I applied to medical school and I think I'm going to get in here.

What's going to happen? She said, "You're accepted into medical school," which was my first time that I knew that, which was great. The second thing she said, "Don't you worry about it. The Dean knows the Surgeon General. He will call the Surgeon General and see if there's something we can do." Well, she got back to me very shortly and she said the Dean has made arrangements with the Surgeon General. All you have to do is to go to the Office of Naval Officer Procurement in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and they will transfer you from the enlisted group to the officer group and you will become . . . well, you'll go from enlisted to officer and become an Ensign HP, (Hospital Probationary). Which I did and at that point I became an Ensign and I went through medical school as an Ensign HP.

I received no money from the Navy whatsoever during that time, but it really was a very great advantage when it came for my retirement time because it gave me the longevity essentially of seven years before I actually went on active duty.

So when you graduated from medical school it would have been what? '54?

1955. I did well in medical school, obviously, because I was fortunate enough to make what's called AOA, Alpha Omega Alpha, which is Phi Beta in medical school, the top five percent that get chosen for that. And with that my three choices to go for an internship in the Navy existed of I believe it was . . . I know it was Bethesda, the second one was Chelsea and the third one was San Diego. And, of course, I got Bethesda.

Now this would have been for your internship now?

1955 to 1956 I was an intern at NNMC in Bethesda, National Naval Medical Center.

What do you recall about those years as an intern there?

Oh, how much do you want to know? My God! The intern, we had what was called heel-and-toe duty. We were on a Monday night, we stayed over in the hospital, we would have off Tuesday, we would have on Wednesday night, then we'd get off Thursday, we would be on duty Friday night, and then we would have off Saturday and Sunday. And then again we would go the opposite direction. At that time then you would get on Monday and then have to go ahead and take the second weekend, so you would continue to rotate through the whole process. Anyway, it was heel-and-toe.

What departments did you rotate through? All of them?

Not all of them. I rotated through, well, it was general surgery, internal medicine, psychiatry, orthopedics, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology. I think that was the seven probably.

Were you beginning to now gravitate toward one of those specialties?

Not really. Not really at all. I was fortunate enough to do extremely well I think in my internship such that at the end of it there was . . . well, there was the Naval Medical School there

at the time. And in the Naval Medical School there was a unit called the Tissue Bank. And that was run by a Navy captain by the name of George Hyatt, who was an orthopedist. Of course, I had orthopedics; that was another rotation. I forgot that one. And he came to me before I finished my internship and said Jim, he said, "I'd like to have you as an Assistant Director of the Tissue Bank. Would you like to come over and do research and preserve bone and skin and so forth?" And, of course, I've always been interested in research, so I said, of course, I would. So I did. I said I agreed and he then was influential enough. Bart Hogan was the Surgeon General at the time and he was quite friendly with Admiral Hogan and this was before the Surgeon General became Vice Admiral, and he was a Rear Admiral at the time. But, anyway, I got my orders to Assistant Director of the Tissue Bank and I went over and for the next two years I stayed at the Tissue Bank at Bethesda.

In the interim, also working at the National Institutes of Health in their Long Term Tissue Culture Unit and then establishing a Tissue Culture Unit in the Tissue Bank at National Naval Medical Center in the medical school. Well, during that time, though I was in research and I published a number of papers with that particular research entity, I began... well, no, I leaned toward internal medicine and finally decided that what I wanted to do was to go into internal medicine.

So I'm talking with Captain Hyatt and said well, the best way to do that he said is to go regular Navy. I was Reserve still. So I went regular Navy, and he said then apply for your residency, and I applied for my residency in internal medicine and I got my internal medicine residency assigned and fortunately I got assigned to Bethesda. So I stayed there for the next three years. My first six years in the Navy I spent at Bethesda at the Tissue Bank.

I went regular Navy, applied for my residency, got my residency at Bethesda and I was obviously a more senior medical officer at the time because I'd already had two years served of my requirement for service after my internship, which was the only requirement that they had was two further years of active duty after internship. But now I then essentially signed up for a few more years of obligation by taking the residency.

Well, anyway, they treated me beautifully at Bethesda. All I can say is, subsequent to that particular point in time I became Senior Resident in my third year. And at that time the Chief of Medicine there, Captain Canada, then subsequently Admiral Canada, who became Deputy Surgeon General subsequently. He was the Chief of Medicine. He assigned me as the Medical Officer in charge of female medicine for the last five months of my tour at Bethesda, which was really quite a nice honor because I had two residents under me and two interns to take care of all 40 to 55 patients, the females.

And during that time, January 20th came by. That was when I was a Senior Resident. The Commanding Officer called me into his office one afternoon and said, "Doctor Young, I've got an extra job for you to do." He said, "I want you to man an ambulance during the Presidential Inauguration." I said, "Gee, that's interesting, fine." He said, "But more interesting than that, you're going to be on the White House grounds. You're going to have the ambulance right behind Kennedy's box. And you'll take care of anything that occurs, and we're going to send the Senior Resident from Surgery with you so you'll have two of you there with a nurse. And you'll have an ambulance and you'll be able to take care of things in case anything happens."

So I manned the ambulance on the White House grounds with the Senior Surgical Resident LT Robert Thomas, during President Kennedy's Inaugural Parade when he was in the inauguration box. That's my first initial contacts with President Kennedy.

Had you met the President-Elect at that time?

No. Not one speck. I was fortunate enough to make some good plans because I stocked the ambulance quite well with sandwiches and I stocked it with, you know, those huge stainless steel containers of liquid. I stocked it with coffee. Anyway, I supplied the Secret Service that day with sandwiches and hot coffee and it was delightful because the people from the White House Staff mess also came up and supplied us with cups from the White House Staff mess.

You must have been a hero to everybody.

Oh, it was fun. It was really delightful. But anyway, that was my first introduction. Well, I went back to my job and about two or three months later I was feeling pretty good because I had already known that I had spoken to the one Admiral who was the head of the Naval Medical School. He wanted me to stay at the Naval Medical School and said he had asked the Detail Officer at BUMED to assign me to the medical school so I could stay on in the Tissue Bank, do research and then probably fill in on the internal medicine side at the hospital.

Who was that? Do you remember that Admiral?

Oh, God, yes. I remember it was Rear Admiral C.B. Galloway. The Commanding Officer of the hospital also asked me to stay on at Bethesda and stay on in the Internal Medicine Department. So I was in high clover at the time. I had two Admirals that were asking for me. Then the third individual came along who was the Chief of Cardiology, whose name I can remember now is Judd Pearson. Captain Pearson at the time was head of the Cardiology Department but was going to Charleston as Chief of Medicine and he wanted me to come to Charleston as Chief of Medicine . . . or as internal medicine, part of his staff. He subsequently became the Physician to the Capitol. Captain Judd Pearson. You'll be able to remember that one. Anyway, I thought I was in great shape. Of course, by then my wife and I had four children and we were doing very well in our own home and I said, "Gee, we're going to be in alright shape." But I was out in the Dependants' Medicine Branch and it was my worst day in my medical career. I had gone on rounds with my staff of two residents and two interns and on rounds we had a patient . . . well, before rounds I usually went to the Morning Report with the Chief of Medicine and the staff man and the Resident.

The Resident was called out to go to the emergency room and he was unable to help the woman that came in. She died in the emergency room of complications of asthma at the age of 65 or 66. That was the first death. And he came back and reported that to us while we were in the Report.

I went back to my office and we went on rounds, and on rounds I had two patients die on us while we were on rounds. One was an aortic stenosis, I can remember it specifically. We were expecting her to die, and that was at a time when we couldn't do any cardiac surgery to open them up and correct the valve. And the next one was an individual who had had considerable chest fluid, anyway, she had been tapped and she got a chest pneumothorax and she died.

And then, this was, oh, this had to be twelve-thirty, quarter to one. At one o'clock we got another patient that came in from Constitution and 23rd, the main Navy dispensary down there. They sent her out and we got her in the hospital. Of course, as soon as we get her in then you got an emergency admission of a 42-year old, you go immediately and see what's going on. Well, we went into her room and she happened to be the wife of a Third Class Boatswain's Mate, or First Class Boatswain's Mate, I beg your pardon. A First Class Boatswain's Mate and she had left him two weeks before and had been running all over Washington, D.C. for the two weeks he hadn't seen her. But he was notified that she was in the hospital.

Well, we went and saw her and we examined her and she had hemorrhagic splinters in her fingers and the first thing I did was listen to her heart, and, of course, she had a terrible problem. She had wide-open aortic insufficiency which she had obviously had bacterial endocarditis and had blown a hole in her aortic valve. Well, it took us about an hour and a half, but she died.

Good God! This is all in one day?

This is all in one day. Actually, this is all in five . . . well, six hours practically. This is why I say this was my worst day in medicine that I've ever had. Well, then I went back to my office and, of course, the Boatswain's Mate had come out because he had been notified that his wife was an emergency admission. And I brought him in my office and I had a desk and I sat behind the desk and I had him on the other side of the desk and I said, "I've got some bad news for you." I said "your wife came in on emergency admission, she had an infection in the heart valve and, unfortunately, we were unable to save her." Well, at that time he pulled out a cigarette and he was shaking pretty badly, and he began to light the cigarette. Just as he lit the cigarette the telephone rang. I picked it up and I said "this is Doctor Young." And I can remember it so distinctly on the other end. He said, "Jim?" I said, "Yes, sir?" He said, this is "Frank Norris at BUMED." I said, "Yes, sir." And Frank Norris was the Detail Officer for Internal Medicine at BUMED. He said, "I've got some wonderful news for you." And I said, "Sir?" "Yeah," he said, "You're going to be the Medical Officer on the U.S.S. *Northampton*. Oh, God, I could have dropped the phone right through the floor. I mean, four deaths, two Admirals asking me to stay at Bethesda, one Captain asking me to go ahead and come down and be on his staff at Charleston, and here I am I'm getting ready to go to sea duty with a wife and four little ones. So, as I say, it was one of my worst days. However, it obviously turned out to be one of my better days in overall, because then Frank Norris began to describe what the U.S.S. *Northampton* was about. He said they had chosen me in place of a Captain, which had been requested by the Medical Officer in charge of the Atlantic fleet.

Were you a Commander at this time?

I was a Lieutenant Senior Grade and the Chief Medical Officer of the Atlantic fleet had asked for a Captain to be assigned to the North Hampton. Why? Because they all ordinarily would only sign Lieutenant Senior Grade and Lieutenant Commanders to that. It was a cruiser, by the way. 15,000 ton CC-1 it was at the time I went on. It was Command Communications Number One and at the time I was going on to the *Northampton* she was the flagship for the Atlantic fleet and carried the Vice Admiral for the Atlantic fleet. MacNair I think his name was. I'm not positive. But he was a Vice Admiral. That shouldn't be hard to find. But, so Frank Norris continued on and said, Jim, he said you've been selected because you have a good record

and this is a very important place for you to be. And I said, yes, sir. I was about as enthusiastic as milk toast.

You probably were close to tears by this time.

Oh, I was really lower than a snake's belly. I could have walked underneath a snake's belly, I think. Anyway, he said well, right now, he said, you will be attached to the Atlantic fleet Commanding Officer's staff and additional duty orders as well as being the Medical Officer on board the U.S.S. *Northampton*. I said, "yes, sir." And he said, "Well, but you're not going to be there long," He said, "Because we're going to kick off the Vice Admiral and he'll have to find another flagship." I said, "oh." He said, "yeah." He said, "we're going to turn the U.S.S. *Northampton* into the Command Post afloat. And the Command Post afloat is going to be designated as a place where the President of the United States and his senior advisors and cabinet members could be evacuated in time of a possible nuclear attack." I said, "Oh." He said, "On board in place of the Admiral, the Vice Admiral, he said we will be having a team come on every month from the Department of Defense. And they will stay on board for 30 days staying in the quarters that were formerly occupied by the Admiral's staff and himself. And then at the end of the month they will turn around and go back to the Pentagon and we'll have another team come out from that same area. The teams will be composed of Marines and Army and Air Force and Navy people and they will have all representation and they will keep the type of Ready Board or Status Board identical to what they have in the Pentagon."

Well, that was kind of interesting because at that time they didn't have Fort Ritchie I think, or some of the other evacuation sites. They were building them at the time, I know, to take the President into in case of a nuclear attack. So I was assigned to the U.S.S. *Northampton*. I went on board as a Senior Grade Lieutenant and shortly thereafter was promoted to Lieutenant Commander. Anyway, that was very fine duty on board the ship because I had to take care of all the people from the Pentagon and they completely closed out the 01 level, which was the Admiral's level and kept it totally controlled by the Department of Defense people.

Was it home ported in Norfolk?

Yes, it was home ported in Norfolk. And we went up and down the East Coast. We followed President Kennedy all over. The first cruise that I went on was really delightful because I got to go on it when the Vice Admiral was still there. And he took it from Norfolk to Bermuda and in Bermuda we had dress whites and we were at cocktail parties and the Admiral was there and oh, big splash deal, you know. Really fantastic. And I thought this was tremendous. But then he was immediately shipped off and we went back to our running up and down and playing tag with President Kennedy. When he would go to Florida we would be off the Florida coast. If he was up in Hyannis, we'd be up off the Maine coast. When he went down to Caracas, Venezuela, we were off the Venezuelan coast with about 1,500 Marines ready to go inland in case they needed them.

It was a very interesting tour, a delightful tour, and during that time in April, oh, I think it was April of '63 or thereabouts. Yeah, it was in April of '63, I think. There was a decision made to review the entire Atlantic fleet from onboard the U.S.S. *Northampton* and, of course, guess who came on board? President John F. Kennedy.

Then you met the President then?

Oh yes.

Officially for the first time or had you met him on other cruises?

No, I did not. But before then what happened was I knew that we had to have the possibility of an evacuation of the President. Well, I'd read all about the situation of how he probably had Addison's disease. Well, I was an internist and I knew if he were out there very long and he had Addison's disease I would need to know what his electrolyte system was about in case he got injured or whatever. Well, how do I do that on board a cruiser and I couldn't put on board an entire chemical analysis unit because they didn't have the technicians at the time. You'd have to do it all by hand. So I tried to figure out how could I do it easily.

Well, anyway, short story, because Addisonians will get into trouble with potassium and sodium balance if they have too little cortisone. What'll happen is their sodium will drop, they'll get it out of their system and the potassium will elevate in counterpoint to the sodium. So I said if that happens I need to know that, so there's one way that I could do that. I'll order an EKG machine because the potassium levels can be estimated if high by peaked "T" waves and if low by flat "T" waves. So I ordered an EKG machine and I was the only cruiser in the entire Navy I think that had an EKG machine on board. Because they said any kind of equipment you want, just ask for it and you'll get it. And I did. So I had that on board. But in addition to that, I said well he's got back trouble. And I had used hydrocolaters in the past many times and I ordered a hydrocolater.

Well, when President Kennedy came on board, of course, he brought along at that time Captain George Burkley. And he also brought along, Doctor Burkley brought along Chief Hendrix who was a Hospital Corpsman Chief. And they always traveled two. In other words, an enlisted person and the physician and they carried their own equipment and medication and what not.

When they came on board, President Kennedy that night, well, after he reviewed the fleet in the afternoon, which was really another remarkable sight of two full lines of ships headed by aircraft carriers, then followed by cruisers, then followed by frigates, then followed by destroyers, then followed by submarines, all in two lines and they were all steaming in one direction. And the *Northampton* came up to the head of the lines and then went down the middle of the two lines, with each passing on either side and President Kennedy on the 01 level of the *Northampton* behind a plexi-glass screen. So he didn't have heavy wind blowing on him and each of the ships on either side as we passed them. They were going the opposite direction to us, they were all manning the rail with their bright whites on. It was really remarkable. I never got a picture of it, unfortunately. But anyway, he reviewed the fleet in that manner and then came and had dinner with us that night in the officers' mess. At that time while we were having dinner George Burkley came over to me and he said, "Jim, I've got a problem." I said, "Sir, you've got a problem?" And he said, "yes." He said "when the President is on a trip we will take along with us a portable hydrocolater to put heat on his back to loosen him up before his exercise program. This time, unfortunately, Chief Hendrix forgot to bring it along." He said, "You don't happen to have a hydrocolater?" And, of course, I said I have one mounted. [laughter] How about that? And he said, "Oh, you saved my life." Well, in addition to that before the President had come on board there was a Doctor Eugene Cohen, C-O-H-E-N, who was President Kennedy's essentially his endocrinologist. When President Kennedy had had his operation in Cornell, I don't know whether it was Columbia Hospital or not, but it was in New York, where

he had his operation removing the metal plate from his lower back, I think that's when he developed his Addison's disease. And Doctor Eugene Cohen was managing the control of his Addison's disease with giving him cortisone prior to my arrival at the White House and for many years, obviously, when he was in the Senate and what not.

Well, Doctor Cohen had been assigned, apparently, by Doctor Burkley to come on board the *Northampton* and to review the *Northampton* to make certain that I had had everything in order in case the President had a problem when he came on board. That we could handle it because we were going to be out at sea for quite a distance. And anyway, Doctor Cohen had come down. He was a Professor of Medicine at Cornell at the time. He came down about oh, seven to eight days, ten days maybe, before our scheduled departure from Norfolk with the President and reviewed the ship.

Well, I had four battle stations that I had to man with my corpsmen. I had 21 corpsmen on board at the time and I separated approximately five or four in each of the individual areas. But I'd also staffed each of the battle stations and stocked it with a significant amount of hydrocortisone because of Kennedy. And I talked to him and told him about that, Doctor Cohen, when he came and inspected the ship to see before . . . in other words, it's the pre-Presidential inspection is what it amounted to. And I showed him that and I showed him the EKG and my thinking on the EKG and he didn't make a committal one way or the other whether Kennedy had Addison's disease or not. He said "oh, that's fine, I'm glad you did that, glad you did that." I think that also helped me a little bit.

How did you learn or how did you hear that the President had Addison's disease? Do you remember?

Yes. If you remember all the way back in the nominating period of time when the nominations are being done for the presidency of the Democratic party, Kennedy and Johnson appeared together, I think it was before the Texas delegation. And at that time there was a lot of noise brought out because then Senator Johnson attempted to get then Senator Kennedy to admit that he had Addison's disease. That was played up in the newspaper at the time quite significantly.

Anyway, I took from that the implication that there was a probability that he had that. Then there was some other reports in the literature that had stated that he was reported to have been a case report. Oh God, was it 1959 *New England Journal of Medicine* I think it was, that reported on a J.F.K. who had had Addison's disease that was reported a case study in the *New England Journal*.

Well, I knew about those and was familiar with it, of course, and just decided from that that, you know, I'd better be prepared. So nobody had told me that he had Addison's disease though. Anyway, I got it done. And then at that particular point when he was on board, of course, they used the hydrocolater. And after they used the hydrocolater I then had the placard made to put over it, a brass placard by the Chief Warrant Officer, and it said, "This was used by President John Kennedy when he spent the overnight on the U.S.S. *Northampton*."

Well, he stayed overnight, they used the hydrocolater on him. It worked perfectly fine. The next day he flew off by helicopter off of our stern to review the Marines. I think they were landing at Quantico. We were all just off Quantico. But he took off and landed there. Well, that's my first introduction to President Kennedy. I mean he met everybody in the wardroom when we had dinner with him. The following morning he had breakfast down in the enlisted

quarters or enlisted mess and went around to the different messes that they had, the chiefs' mess and first-class mess, and he visited each one of them. But then he flew off by helicopter to review the troops over in Quantico. Now this was in 1963. Just before Kennedy had come on board, and I've got to tell you this crazy story, about ten days before he came on board and reviewed the fleet we were out at sea and just standing off of 2-CHARLIE-BRAVO, and lo and behold a storm came up. First time I noticed that we had the storm problem I was in my own room. It was right underneath the Captain's quarters which was just delightful, the ship was totally air-conditioned, so it was really soft duty. But I had my own private room and the first thing I noticed was I was thrown out of bed in the morning about five thirty, six o'clock in the morning. And I jumped back into bed and I grabbed onto the mattress to lay back down because I knew we were going to roll the other way, and we did. We rolled the other way. And lo and behold I knew we were going to come back the other way again and we did and I landed on my feet and I smashed in my bureau doors, my bureau where I had the closet doors.

Well, I knew that we were in trouble. I knew that the ship was really going from side to side something severe, so I got dressed and I went down to the sick bay. And, of course, I had about 12 to 14 individuals there who had already fallen out of their triple-decker bunks which they had down in the crews quarters and there were cuts and bruises and what not that we had to take care of and we were taking care of them in sick bay.

But that was early. That was maybe seven o'clock, seven thirty. About eight o'clock, here comes this Lieutenant Colonel from the Air Force and he's got his hands bleeding like crazy. I mean there's just blood all over his hands wrapped up in a towel and he came in. I said what happened? And he was the meteorologist from the Air Force who came in with hands all covered up with blood. And he had them wrapped up in a towel and he was ushered into the sick bay and then into the operating room, as a matter of fact, right away. And I went in and I talked to him. I said, "What in the world happened." He said, "I couldn't believe that I missed this storm so badly." And this storm was really wicked, I mean it was . . . we had 60-70 foot waves and I mean this. Unbelievable. I'll describe it a little bit later after I finish the story with him. Anyway, he couldn't believe that he had missed the storm, so at about seven thirty he decided he was going to take a look at this storm because he'd never seen anything like this being in the Air Force. So he went from the O-1 level, he went up, 0-2, 0-3, 0-4. He went up to 0-13. 0-13 was the top, the very top, of the U.S.S. *Northampton*. And up there it was right underneath what we called the SPS-2, which was our magnificent radar..

It was so good at the time we monitored the entire island of Cuba and could tell which planes were going off from Havana where just by sitting off the end of Cuba. It was that powerful. Anyway, he went up there underneath the SPS-2 and in order to take a look he decided he would undog the hatch up there, which he did. He undogged it and, of course, it gradually came open because it was one of these great, huge, maybe two and a half inch thick metal doors and when he undogged it, of course, the ship was rolling to one side and the door flew right on open. So he put both of his hands on the door to steady himself so he wouldn't fall out and, of course, the ship had to come back the other way and guess what came with it? The door. He had his hands, the ends of his fingers, both hands were smashed by that door. That's why I got him down in sick bay.

Anyway, I spent the next two hours picking spicules of bone out of the ends of his fingers and wrapping it up and sterilizing his hand. By the way, he got back to flight status after that. But this was such a severe storm that it broke the antenna across the entire top of the ship. The

Captain's Gig which had not been put in inboard, which had been outboard, was destroyed. The only thing that was left was pieces on the ends of the davits. Unbelievable. But it was a storm that we took, let's see, I think it was a 49-degree and a 47-degree roll, 49 and 47 degree.

That's on the beam-ends pretty much.

I'll tell you what, the critical angle was 53. If we hit 53 we'd go topsy-turvy. Now what had happened, Captain Slaughter was the captain's name at the time, I'll never forget him because he never did make Admiral because of this I'm sure. He had . . . we were doing fine, you know, up until six-thirty or thereabouts or up until six o'clock. When he got word that the Chesapeake Light Ship which was manned by some 12 crewman right at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay was having trouble, they had three anchors down. The three anchors were down, but two anchor cables broke and therefore they were dragging the third anchor. And what he wanted to do was to go over and save them.

Well, he was northwest of them to a degree, so he had to turn to go back to them. He had turned the *Northampton* appropriately into the storm winds since the storm was just off to the east. The seas were running from the northeast to the southwest so he was riding the storm out correctly by putting his bow into the waves and they were coming from the northeast to the southwest. But, since he was parallel to the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay he had to make a turn to the portside to go towards the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay.

When he turned the ship to portside, his ship became susceptible to these humongous waves that were coming and thus we took the 49-degree roll and the 47-degree roll, and at that time he gave up and turned it back into the wind and rode out the storm. But we were close to turning over at that particular point. I know that we had such tremendous waves because, well, they put everything in zebra lock and when they put into the zebra lock that means all the doors and everything are closed between compartments and you can't open them. You can't open the outside. And this stupid individual Lieutenant Colonel had opened a zebra lock, which he shouldn't have done.

Anyway, the following day they'd calmed down somewhat, but then there was a Chinese ship off of Cape Hatteras that had taken so much beating that they had lost capacity to steer. In addition to losing their capacity to steer they had a man who had injured himself and had fractured an arm, apparently, on board. So what they wanted to do, the captain decided since he had a doctor and he was the closest ship by we would turn and we would go down there. Well, we went down to Cape Hatteras area and I had the opportunity of having the helm of the ship with the captain's supervision during that period for a very short time, but I actually had the wheel and we were going through waves that broke over the bow of our cruiser. Unbelievable. Well, we still had 50-60 foot waves that we were going through in going down to Cape Hatteras. We got down there and the seas were too heavy to put a boat in the water. So it was all to no avail because we did not go over to the Chinese ship at all because he just had a broken arm and they didn't feel like . . . the captain didn't feel like he wanted to sacrifice the possibility of losing his medical officer to a broken arm problem. So I didn't go over. So that was the beginning and probably the entrance of my situation to John Kennedy and the White House staff people.

How did you get the job at the White House in the unit?

Well, all of this preceding aspect that I've just been talking to you about, my high school stuff, doing well in high school, doing well in college, becoming a leader my senior year in

college, going to medical school, making ADA, staying in Bethesda for six years, being the staff medical officer when I was actually still in training in charge of the women's ward, then being assigned to the *Northampton* when President Kennedy came on board, all of that, that whole spectrum I think, led to the subsequent issue of my being invited to the White House.

Interview 2

. . . remember them, of course, after thinking about it a few moments. And one is C.B. Galloway was the individual who was the Commanding Officer of the Naval Medical School at the time. And Frank P. Kreuz was the Commanding Officer of the hospital.

Right, we have a good size dossier on Admiral Kreuz.

You do?

Yes.

He's an orthopedist and he was quite a character. And I wanted to make a comment about another individual, interestingly enough. While I was at Duke. I came into contact with another individual that I thought I should at least let you know about. Because I had . . . I'd gotten four letters in football and my senior year I was elected the Student Government President at Duke. I was taken into the Honorary Leadership Fraternities as usual with that sort of an activity, and at that time the Omicron Delta Kappa, ODK, which was the national leadership fraternity, took me into it and with all the trappings and ceremony. But in addition to that, they had two honorary members that were voted in who had been at Duke some years before and had graduated. And they were being honored as honoraries into the leadership fraternity and brought back. Guess who one of them was? It was Senator Richard Milhous Nixon. He had graduated from law school, but they brought him back to give him a leadership membership honorary in ODK. Well, at that time there was an individual who was my counterpoint at the University of North Carolina by the name of Allard Lowenstein. Allard Lowenstein was President of the student government at UNC.

It comes out of New York because he was the congressman who shot down, essentially, some of President Johnson's future considerations because he was very vociferous and, well, he was a congressman from New York. Anyway, Al Lowenstein was the sponsor; essentially, you get a sponsor to go ahead and shepherd the very important people around. So he was the sponsor for Richard Milhous Nixon, who brought him over to me. And Al and I had had some goings-on

because during the course of my senior year a pledge class of a fraternity that will remain unnamed stole the North Carolina ram before the Duke-North Carolina football game. And that caused quite a considerable stir. The UNC students were coming over after us at Duke until Al and I defused the situation. Anyway, Al was there. He brought Richard Nixon over to me and introduced Senator Nixon to me and said, "Senator, I want you to meet Jim Young. He is President of the Student Government Association here at Duke." And I got the glad hand from Senator Nixon and he reached over and he said, "Oh, how do you do?" He said, "Jim, you're the President of the Student Government Association here at Duke?" And I said, "Yes sir, I am." He said, "I think that's marvelous, wonderful." He said, "Are you interested in politics, in going into politics?" And I said, "No, sir, I'm not. I'm going to go to medical school." And with that he said "Oh," turned around, walked away and that's the last I ever saw of him. [laughter] That's a very true story and it very much characterizes, I think, President Nixon and his attitude to different issues and people.

So we were at the point of you going to the White House.

Yeah, I'm going to the White House. After I got off of the *Northampton*, they said "you can go anyplace you want to go, Jim. We'll give you an assignment anyplace that you want, overseas, here or whatever." And I said, "well, I'd like to get back into academic medicine and I'd like to have one of the training hospitals," and I said, "Why not Philadelphia since I have been at Bethesda for six years. I would like to go to Philadelphia Naval Hospital." And they said fine and they gave me my orders to Philadelphia Naval Hospital. I went on the internal medicine staff there and I was assigned to be the Ward Medical Officer over their cardiac ward, which was just a fantastic ward.

I only was there, oh, nine months I think total. But in those nine months I saw every conceivable abnormal rhythm that I have ever seen in my life, primarily because of the fact that we were the dumping ground for the VA hospital. Because when the VA couldn't take care of the patient or were a difficult patient they would ship them over to us. And we probably had, I would say, oh, from one quarter to a half of our patients were veterans that had come over from the Veterans Hospital.

I had two interns or actually residents with me at the time and we had, really, we hopped all over the place with that. But in order to try and keep up, I would go to the medical library. And in the medical library one afternoon I was there at about four thirty and I was reading up on some things and the excited librarian rushed over to me and she said Doctor Young, Doctor Young, you have to come to the telephone immediately. And I said why? What's the problem? She said, "Well, the White House is on the line." And I said, "The White House?" "Yes, the White House."

So I went over. But to precede this a little bit, Doctor George Burkley, when he had come onto the *Northampton*, we'd gone out to sea far enough that the exchange that we had on board the ship had opened for individuals to buy things without it being taxed because when you're three miles further out you don't have any taxation. You're out in the open sea. So therefore George Burkley when he was out there decided that he would buy a new watch and save the cost of taxes and whatnot back in the States. And he bought the new watch and he took it back to the White House, and after he had gotten back to the White House, now this was like in

April or thereabouts when they had been onboard, he called me and said that the watch didn't work. [laughter]

Well, what could I do about it? I was at Philadelphia at the time and . . . no, I wasn't at Philadelphia at the time. I was still with the *Northampton*. So I said "well, send it in and we'll go ahead and exchange it," which I did, and sent it back to him, another watch and it was all taken care of. Well, he apparently appreciated that. But when I was sitting in the medical library at Philadelphia, and George Burkley was on the other end of the line. And he said, "Jim," he said, "I've been doing a lot of traveling and Doctor Travell doesn't do much traveling at all with the President," so he said, "I need some assistance. I wonder whether you would come down to the White House with me and be my assistant here in the White House." I said, "well, sir," I said, "I just got here nine months ago and my wife and children are just getting settled in and they're in school and whatnot." I said, "I would like to have 24 hours to talk it over with my wife." And he said, "Oh, fine, he said you go ahead and talk it over with her and then let me hear from you and we'll decide."

Well, I went home and my wife, this was my first wife. My first wife died of cancer of the breast at the age of 39 and left me with six little ones. That was in 1969 when she died. But at that time we discussed the issue briefly and she said, "Jim, we have to go down there. You have to take this. This is an opportunity that only comes once in a lifetime." And I said "Fine, we'll do it," and I called him the next day and I said, "I'll accept your appointment to the White House." He said "Fine." He said "We'll have to start your investigation because they'll have to go into your background." He said "you have nothing there?" And I said "No sir, I don't. And I did find out that, oh my gosh, they went all the way back to, well, practically to my birth to talk to individuals because they obviously had to task me for top secret."

So they did and I arrived in the White House, I think, in June of '63. And at that time that was just after Jacqueline had given birth to their son that died down on the Cape. So I didn't get to see much of them at the time. In fact, not at all, well, for a period of time. And Jacqueline, of course, was off to the side. She didn't appear at anything for quite some time. And so during that period from June until November we saw the President on a, oh, I would bi-monthly or monthly basis.

Now what year was this again?

1963. The year of his assassination. When we did see him we would go to the pool area and there were two rooms actually in the pool area. There was one outside which was an exercise room which had some hard cots and whatnot on it that President Kennedy would get a massage after he had been in the pool and he also did his exercise program. Actually he did his exercise program three times a day. The exercises had been prescribed for him by one Doctor Hans Kraus, K-R-A-U-S, from New York, who was an orthopedist from Austria who had great success with people, particularly high executives who had back difficulties. And he would put them on a series of exercise programs with relaxation techniques and massage and he did a great job.

President Kennedy was probably in the best shape he had been in for years and years by virtue of the three times a day going into the heated pool, swimming and then coming out, doing his exercises and getting a massage after that. So there was the outside room and then there was the inner aspect of the beautiful pool that had the painting of the Bay at St. Thomas.

I don't know whether you have ever been there or not, but it's a gorgeous view, and the entire one wall of the pool area was painted, and I don't know by whom. But, of course, now it's all gone. It's been turned into the press area. But we would see President Kennedy once or twice a month with a group of us, and Doctor Kraus would come down from New York City.

Doctor Eugene Cohen, who was the endocrinologist that I spoke about before, who was on the faculty at Cornell, he would come down. And we would have a man by the name of Doctor Russell Sage Boles, who was his gastroenterologist from Lahey Clinic. And the President had some little stomach troubles and he would take a capsule perhaps every now and then of, oh, I think it was called Donatel or Donagel at the time, and this would calm his stomach down. I think it was probably because of eating habits that he had problems with it.

But other than that, we all got together; we all examined him. We all discussed issues with him at the time and then we would all go off into our offices and discuss whether there was any need to change his medication or to change his steroid levels or anything and, of course, generally there was not a problem. Certainly while I was there during those, what, four or five months before his assassination.

So you only saw him infrequently at these sessions?

Right. Not on a daily basis. No, it was not like President Johnson. On President Johnson I saw him, oh, I would say almost on a daily basis with President Johnson. But on President Kennedy, I would stay late in the afternoon. We would alternate because there were only three doctors in the White House at the time. Now I think they've got five or six. I don't know how many they've got now, but at that time we only had three, Janet Travell, George Burkley and myself.

Was there any discussion among the three of you about the Addison's situation?

Oh, there was between Doctor Burkley and I, yes. All the time. That's probably one of the reasons that I was brought in because they had just taken away the responsibility of President Kennedy's control of the steroid level from Dr. Travell. In other words, he was taking two different kinds of steroids. One was cortisone and the other one was called Florinef, which you usually give to patients who have Addison's disease. And in his situation his medication was relatively stable except when he might have gotten a cold or something, we would then increase his cortisone to a certain degree. But he really was in great shape during the period that I was there.

So he wasn't suffering some of the normal side effects or steroid use?

Well, that's one of the reasons why the control of his steroid medication was taken away from Doctor Janet Travell. Doctor Travell was a physiatrist, and she had been given the position of Physician to the President by President Kennedy because she had gotten him back on his feet after his operation in New York. And he had been on crutches and probably had been diagnosed, although I never did find out, he probably had been diagnosed at that time as having the Addison's disease occur. And I believe it probably had to do with them taking the back plate out. He had a back plate placed in I think at Chelsea when he came back from the Pacific tour in his lower back and this became infected and the infection then probably caused him to have the Addison's disease. I postulated that JFK had what we call in medicine, the Waterhouse Frederickson Syndrome. I'm making suppositions on this only by virtue of the fact that there is a

particular problem that can occur with significant bacterial infection that destroys the adrenal glands.

And what happened was, I think in his hospitalization in New York when he had the plate removed he had this septicemia or blood-borne infection that probably caused what's called the Waterhouse Fredrickson Syndrome. It's bleeding into the adrenal glands and then they are destroyed. Well I think the probability that Gene Cohen recognized it, put him on the steroids and thereafter he was controlled. But the control of the steroids was not well handled by Doctor Travell, I must state, because the control or giving of the medication was taken out of her hands.

Now it was only taken out of her hands sometime maybe a month or two before I arrived at the White House and apparently this had to be done with great dexterity by the politicians. Because what had happened, if individuals would look at JFK's facial features, they would change from month-to-month. And prior to the point in time where the control of his steroids was given over to Doctor Burkley, and myself, subsequently and myself, but Doctor Travell whenever President Kennedy would feel low or bad she would increase his steroids. And what happened was, he was getting a full-face on occasion and he looked like he was on steroids. And then she would reduce them and he would go down again in his facial features, and this caused a problem because individuals who are on cortisone can sustain some significant problems.

Mainly they could have actually paranoid psychiatric breaks, and this was one of the concerns that was expressed, particularly Kenny O'Donnell, who was the right hand administrative assistant to JFK and Ted Sorenson. They both were involved in the decision to take the control of JFK's medication away from Doctor Travell and give it to Doctor Burkley, and then I was brought in as well.

I was fortunate enough to . . . well, the medication was given to JFK on a daily basis and we gave it to him . . . well, we didn't give it to him. We gave it to Evelyn Lincoln, his secretary. She would accept the small, clear plastic box, oh, it was about an inch by . . . an inch square, about a half an inch in thickness, and you could see into it. In other words, it was clear Plexiglas. And we would give him his medication for morning, noon and evening, his three medications, or his three doses of medication. And we would place the appropriate pills in each one of the boxes, give them to Mrs. Lincoln and then she would give them to President Kennedy at the appropriate times during the day. That's why we didn't see him regularly because he would get his medication, we would send it up by corpsmen on our staff to Mrs. Lincoln's office and then she would give it to the President at the appropriate times.

And what were these medications again that you were giving, the two?

Well, there were two medications. One was cortisone. And the other was Flurinef. F-L-O-U-R, I think or F-L-U-R-I-N-E-F. One is a mineral corticoid and the other is a regular corticoid. And so this is how President Kennedy got his medication on a daily basis, but it was, as I said, essentially taken away from Janet Travell. Doctor Travell was a physiatrist and she treated individuals who had severe back and muscular problems. And she had gotten President Kennedy back on his feet by giving him what they call trigger point injections and these trigger point injections, she used procaine which was then what you would call a local anesthetic. You could get procaine injections if you had your teeth being worked on or if you need to have sutures placed in a laceration or something. They would give this by injection in a local aspect and it would numb the area for a period of time very similar to, subsequently, use of xylocaine.

But she would find a point in the area of the patient's lower back that caused significant pain when pressure was applied to it, a pressure point if you wanted to call it that. And then in that area, she would inject procaine and she was quite successful and got JFK back on his feet as a physiatrist and as a female. And this was a very loud applause when he appointed her as his physician in the White House because she was a female.

So that's how I think that came about, but she did not travel with the President. She traveled, I believe, over to the European trip when he went over and met with, I believe it was Khrushchev or somebody, yeah, I think it was Khrushchev at the time. She went with the group to Vienna I believe was where it was. And this was, I have been told, there was an individual who subsequently, and I'm blocking on his name now, was a doctor from New York who came down to see the President. Not necessarily to see the President, but he saw somebody, let's say in the White House because the Secret Service records have shown him to be there on a number of occasions. And he subsequently was dismissed from any consideration of exchange with the White House because of a background check that apparently the Secret Service and the FBI did on him that showed he was not using things correctly and that he used amphetamine as an injection material. His name was Jacobson if you recall that name any place. Max Jacobson was his name.

There was a story recently within the last year about him and about his rather controversial treatment of Kennedy. I'm trying to remember where I saw that piece.

Well, I don't think he treated Kennedy and this I've said in open forum and I will make this statement very clearly now hopefully to dispel any consideration. You recall in my previous commentary that I stated that three times a day the President had exercise programs given to him by corpsmen. During that time of exercise he would swim nude in the pool and he would come out of the pool nude and lay down on the exercise tables that they had and do his exercises and subsequently have a massage. That was also taught to these corpsmen by Hans Krauss and his group in New York. Each of our six corpsmen knew how to do this and did it regularly, and each one of them . . . they were not assigned like Stu Baltimore, you do this three times today. I mean, it would be one and then it would be another, it would be Hendrickson another time, it'd be Chief Martinelli on another time, Chief Mills on another time.

So it was not always the same individual three times a day, but there would be usually three different individuals who would attend to President Kennedy's exercise protocol. Anyway, these individuals would see him nude. If there had been any evidence of an injection, which is the implications that had been given by some authors, they never noticed them. They never saw any, they never reported any to us. And if there was any kind of a problem with the President they would report it to us. This is another reason why we, as the doctors, did not have to see President Kennedy on a daily basis. He was seen at least three times a day by these corpsmen and they were trained, obviously, to note this. At no time did they ever make the comment that there was any consideration of an injection site on President Kennedy's body.

Now who . . . do you remember the names of these corpsmen?

Oh yes. Yes. There was Chief Hendrix, I believe. Chief Martinell, M-A-R-T-I-N-E-L-L-I, I believe, or no I on the end. Chief Tom Mills. Chief Mills is still living in Johnson City, Texas, because I just checked with him on an issue that I will talk about later on. He is in Johnson City, he did transfer to the Medical Service Corps and I believe he retired as a

Lieutenant Commander, MSC. Let's see. We had some of the individuals changed during the period of time. There was another one by the name of Stu Baltimore, Baltimore as it ordinary . . . Stuart Baltimore was his name. These were all corpsmen and trained as corpsmen and obviously had knowledge as to emergency treatments and what not and evaluations. If I can go back I will go back again and think a little bit more appropriately because there are some others who were there subsequently underneath President Johnson, because some of them left and some came back.

Chief Hendrix, for example, did leave after President Kennedy's assassination. He gave some time and then he retired from the service and then actually he went back to Hans Krause's office in Fifth Avenue in New York and was doing massage and therapy works there. So those were the corpsmen, though, that were in our office.

There was also a Navy nurse. The Navy nurse's name was Elizabeth Chapowicki and this is what I called you about before. And the other nurse that we had in our office was a lady by the name of Gen Herrell, Genevieve Herrell, she was civilian. She was civilian and had been there, oh my goodness, she had been there for oh, maybe 10, 12, 13 years at the time when I came because I believe she came, with President Eisenhower. Well, it was a colonel in the Air Force; Walter Takash was his Assistant Physician at the time. That's when there were two. I became the first third physician in the White House because there was only two prior to that point. And all the way back to Joe Boone when there was one and then with FDR there was still only one at the time and he happened to be Ross McIntire, who was the Surgeon General I believe it was during the war. And he actually didn't have much of an office in the White House. He didn't spend a lot of time there.

It was in the basement wasn't it?

Well, it's in the basement, but interesting . . . where the office of the physician was is right across from the elevator that takes the President to his living quarters on the second floor, and the next room next to the doctor's office was what was called the Map Room and the Map Room is immediately adjacent to the Diplomatic Reception Room, which is the oval room right underneath the Blue Room where all the diplomats would come in off of the South Lawn underneath that awning that was, you know, displayed and they would then have the greeting in the Diplomatic Reception Room.

But then as you went towards the President's office, the next room was the Map Room which apparently President Roosevelt used to keep all the maps of activity around the world when the Second World War was going on, he had the maps up in that room. While I was there that Map Room was never really utilized for very much at all, except when they moved us from the West Wing. When I first came to the White House we had offices in the West Wing of the White House. looking out onto the street that separated the Executive Office Building from the West Wing of the White House called West Executive Drive. And we were right next to the entrance door of the West Wing where the Secret Service and the White House Police were stationed at that particular door. If you came in that door and made an immediate left turn, you would go down a short hallway and then the door that you would open on the left would have been our offices.

And we had, oh my goodness, we had one, two, three, four, five rooms in that area. We had one room that was used as an office for both Doctor Burkley and me. We had one room that was used as a reception area with a desk in it. We had another room in which there was an X-

ray, X-ray table, and a massage table. We had another room where there was a dental chair, two dental chairs, and a treatment area. And then we had a small laboratory that we could do various types of lab work in. And then we had a dark room where we could go ahead and do the radiographic development. That was the entirety of our office space.

After Janet Travell left, Janet Travell occupied the office space opposite the President's elevator leading to the second floor. She occupied essentially three rooms there next to the Map Room, and on the other side of her towards the Rose Garden was the offices of the housekeeper of the White House at the time. Her offices were only three rooms, so that when she left and then they asked that Doctor Burkley and I move over to that particular office there wasn't enough room for us to have, you know, two doctors in the same room so to speak. So what they did was they opened up the area into the Map Room, and they made my office in the Map Room and into the Map Room. There was also a treatment room and my office looked out right on the South Lawn right underneath the big magnolia tree that now has become famous because that one pilot essentially almost hit the White House by flying in underneath that magnolia tree. And before he hit the White House he hit the ground. I think you recall that.

Yes, I do.

But anyway, that was my office back on the other side of the treatment room at that time. Right. Well when you say you saw the President infrequently, it was really the corpsmen who saw him on a daily basis.

What did they have you doing in the White House office there when you weren't seeing the President? What were your duties?

I guess you could understand that there is such a thing as the Executive Branch of our government. I took care of everybody in that Executive Branch, believe me. I have all kinds of physical exams done on the Cabinet members, on all of the assistants to the President that come down, they would all come down for various issues, all of the secretaries, even from the East Wing. The social secretaries and the people from the Military Aide's office over there, the Secret Service would come in. All of those individuals . . . it was not a day where you would just sit around and read. I mean, it was frequent activity, a lot of it. And my philosophy at the time was, obviously, that every individual that I could take care of and make feel better, really, would be a better issue as far as the President was concerned because they all supported him and therefore, you know. If we gave them the opportunity of doing a good job and feeling well, then obviously it would take some small amount of pressure off of the President.

I want to go back just for a second to the President and his back situation. That, presumably, that was the injury he sustained in the war in the PT boat incident?

Well, it was the injury, but he subsequently, you know, had surgery and had a plate put in at Chelsea. Right, at Chelsea Naval Hospital.

And that was really what caused the main problem?

That's correct. I think that the plate that was removed, I believe it was removed at Columbia Presbyterian, I'm not positive of this because really there were no records. They kept the records secret. The Kennedy family just kept them without really having us to see what was

going on or what anything was. We only knew what was going on at the immediate moment essentially. And where we stood on that.

Right, that was the political decision to keep him viable as a candidate.

That is absolutely correct I think, without question. But that's where I got my information was from that, oh, I think, confrontation I'd have to call it between then Senator Kennedy and then Senator Lyndon Johnson in front of the caucus of the . . . the Texas caucus group. That's where I got my information when I was on the *Northhampton* about his Addison's disease or his suspicion of Addison's disease. That's all I had to go on.

Once he was on the medication for the Addison's that you and Doctor Burkley were monitoring fairly carefully and Doctor Travell was now gone from the White House did you . . .

Well, she was not gone from the White House until after I think President Johnson came into office.

Oh, but she was in a sense sidelined as far as giving him the medication?

That's right.

Was she still doing the procaine treatments?

No, he didn't need any, which was delightful. She was really taking care of the female side of the White House. She had a lot of attraction to Jacqueline Kennedy, for example. And, of course, her position, where she was, was immediately at the base of the elevator, just across the hall from the elevator. So when Jacqueline would come down she could go in there for her Vitamin B12 shot or whatever it was and generally this is what . . . Janet Travell would give out a lot of that.

Janet Travell I have to say did make one glaring error that I know of that no one else probably will even make any comments about. But at the time there was a speaker in the Capitol. Oh, what was his name? He was from Texas. He was a good friend of Lyndon Johnson's. It was Speaker of the House. Sam Rayburn who was a very close friend of Lyndon Johnson's began to have back trouble and, of course, the ultimate in physician therapy was to go to the President's doctor of course. Well, he came over to the President's doctor and she began to give him Procaine injections for his back problem which continued for, I think, some six months until he finally had to go to or was convinced to go to Walter Reed. And at Walter Reed they took some X-rays and discovered that he had metastatic cancer to his spinal column. And she had been treating him with Procaine injections, which is not a very complimentary aspect as far as her astute abilities to evaluate people. This was some of the problem that some of the individuals saw with Janet Travell. She was good at physical medicine, but she wasn't good at diagnosis. So, anyway, she took care of the children and Mrs. Kennedy and a lot of the social people on the East Wing of the White House during the time that we were there and even into President Johnson's era she was taking care of Mrs. Johnson and the girls to some degree. And, of course, she would see President Johnson on occasion as well. But subsequently after the inauguration of President Johnson I believe, and boy I'm fuzzy on this timing, I don't know whether it was after his inaugural that she left? I believe it was after his actual election and inauguration. It must have been in '65 then. Probably she left in '65. I believe she must have had a commitment made to her by Jack Kennedy that was probably kept by Lyndon Johnson that

she would stay for the term. I have an idea that that's what it was, but there's nothing ... well, she's written a book I know but I haven't read it so I don't know what's in it.

Right. So you and Doctor Burkley were really in charge, in the sense . . . not in the sense, Doctor Burkley was in charge, you were his assistant?

Yes. We actually were treated and thought of as equals.

Were you noticing any other aspects of the President's . . . let's say effects of the medication or mood swings or anything like that? What did you think of that?

Not at all. I think that he was well, well, well controlled. I mean really, I've said it before in open forum so I thought that he was probably in some of the best health that he had ever been in prior to his assassination. Truly. I mean, he was bright, capable, and responsive. We would see him on occasion also, he would come down to when we were in the West Wing of the White House. He would come down even . . well, we actually had him . . well, he would come down to the West Wing in the area of the radiographic area or in our X-ray unit area, we also had a mercury ultraviolet light and he would lay down under the mercury ultraviolet light and take approximately I'd say 45 seconds to a minute of ultraviolet treatment to his face before he would go over to the State House to hold one of his fabulous press conferences. And he would do this because it would give him a nice blush for a period of time. You know, it was kind of like a quick sunburn, and he knew this and he did that just deliberately for that purpose. Because obviously the Nixon-Kennedy debate demonstrated how sallow President Nixon looked and apparently didn't have a very good makeup person, and Kennedy apparently looked very fit and trim.

Yeah, in fact, as I recall, Nixon refused to have any makeup put on. That was one of the facts.

Oh, is that right? I didn't know that.

Yes, yes. He said he was going to go straight without the makeup.

Well, I can almost assure you that President Kennedy probably had some ultraviolet light beforehand because if he did it for the press conference, he certainly would do it when he was in front of the TV camera.

He certainly was very conscious of appearances.

Oh, very much so. He was in great shape, though. I was just really surprised. I was called up to his office, you know, on occasion like when John-John would come over. And one time I can recall very specifically was around six o'clock in the evening and George Burkley and I would alternate staying, you know, until the President would get out of his office. We would stay down in our offices and be available for him. And one afternoon or evening, early, at six o'clock the President called down and asked me to come up. And the reason I had to go up was because John-John had been crawling around underneath his desk and scraped his nose and needed to have a Band-Aid put on his nose. I went down, I got one of my stars and bars Band-Aids and put it over his nose and he was the happiest little guy you ever saw in your life running around with a Band-Aid. But that's the kind of thing, very insignificant issue but very significant as far as the President was concerned because he could call on us and we could go ahead and do anything for him that he needed.

I want to just talk about Doctor Burkley just for a minute. What do you recall about him as a practitioner?

Doctor Burkley, well I think what started the problem between Doctor Burkley and I, and there was a problem, was the issue that when I came to the White House I had applied to take my boards in internal medicine. I had already passed part one and I needed to take part two, which is the oral examination, which I subsequently took in New York City while I was in the White House. I think it was within the first month or so I was in the White House. And I fortunately passed those boards as well.

This is when there were two parts to the internal medicine board, one a written examination which you had to pass first, and there was a sixty percent failure . . . well, forty percent failure rate on that. And then the second part was an oral examination handled by seeing two patients with two separate professors of medicine who would then orally question you about the particular patients secondly. I took my boards and fortunately passed them.

Unfortunately, Doctor Burkley had taken his internal medicine boards twice and failed them both times. He had a major problem and what began to be felt later on when I asked to be transferred from the White House. He began to be terribly paranoid about my activity. He would see a patient and let's say it was one of the secretaries and she had a sore throat. And he would see her and examine her and say "Well here, you take a couple of these aspirin and you go call your doctor tonight" and that'll be it, whereas, I would do I guess the academic approach. I would look at the throat and say I'm going to take a culture of this and we'll see what the story is on the culture.

I would see the patient and evaluate the throat and then I would take a throat culture usually, if it was suggested. And then I would tell the patient to do a gargle, or take some Cepacol to soothe the throat. Gargle with normal saline and then I would call her the next day after I got the report back from the bacterial laboratory if there was a positive culture for Beta strep or some other pathogen. And at that time suggested she go on an antibiotic, whatever it would be at the time. Whereas Doctor Burkley would just give aspirin and say, go see your local physician. This is where he got into trouble with Jacqueline Kennedy also because after JFK's assassination I spent ten straight days with Jacqueline, three in the White House and then I went with her to Hyannis and stayed in Hyannis for seven days and we had frequent meetings. I would say three and four times a day while I was in Hyannis and we had long discussions because she and I actually we were only six months apart in age at the time and she would discuss all kinds of different areas with me. She was very interested in research and what was going on with different medications and we had many long discussions really. But during those long discussions also we got into some kind of personal attitudes on her part. She described some of the individuals that I've talked about, namely she described Doctor Travell as Madame Nhu. [laughter] That's the one in I think it was Vietnam.

Right, right. She was the first lady of Vietnam there.

That's right, who was a very conniving individual apparently. And then she described Doctor Cohen as a psychopath and she described Doctor Burkley as a Communist. These are actual things that we discussed way, you know, after . . . well, when we were in Hyannis.

Pet names, huh?

Yes, those were interesting monikers to put on these individuals because interestingly enough Janet Travell I think tried to subjugate her patients' dependence on her. In other words, she, by doing these injections and Vitamin B12 injections and others had them come back and back and back and back. She was interested in the, oh, I guess the notoriety you'd have to say. And George Burkley, if you look at it from the point of view that I just described how he treated the other individuals in the White House and gave them a couple of aspirin and told them to go see their doctor, this is kind of Communistic in a certain sense, you know? Very rigid discarding them away. I don't know about the aspect of why Jacqueline felt that Doctor Eugene Cohen was a psychopath. I don't have any insight into that.

So she never went into any more detail on Doctor Burkley except to call him that?

Yes. Well, she didn't like Doctor Burkley. I can tell you that. Jacqueline Kennedy did not like him and he was a very stiff person to many people. He had been picked up by Wallace Graham, I think his name was, who was the physician to Eisenhower. And, let's see, who was the other one? It was a colonel in the Air Force. Walter Tkach was the other individual who was with I think Wallace Graham. Or maybe Wallace Graham was with Truman. I'm not positive.

I think Graham was with Truman if I recall.

Okay, that's . . . oh, Snyder. I think Snyder was the individual who was with Eisenhower.

Yes.

I know Walter Tkach was because he was in my position essentially in the White House. Anyway, George Burkley at the time Eisenhower was President was the Commanding Officer of the Naval Dispensary at 23rd and Constitution Avenue. And it's kind of a farm out area, or pasture out before retirement so to speak, for individuals who were not in the academic area and he was, oh goodness, I guess he was 60 or thereabouts when I arrived at the White House and I was in my early 30s.

And, of course, we had quite a generation gap between us and attitudinally there was a whole lot of difference as well. He was a very secretive sort of individual. He didn't want to share things with people, information in particular, you know, like information about the President. And he was, as I said, he had a little bit of a chip on his shoulder because I had passed my boards in internal medicine so quickly after getting there and that didn't cause him comfort. But also what didn't cause him comfort was the fact that many of the people had called to the White House Doctor's office and they would ask for me. And at times he would pick up the telephone and answer it and they would ask for me and that upset him. In fact, I heard him at one time chew out a patient on the other end of the line by saying "there are two doctors here, not just one, and either one of us will be delighted to see you when you come down." That's kind of how things began to move. Oh, let's see, where were we?

What I want to ask you, just to follow up on Doctor Burkley for a moment and then we'll go back to the President . . .

Yes?

Was this what caused your inevitable . . . well, the fact that you requested . . .

The schism, yes. That was the beginning of the schism that we had was the aspect of the differential in my treatment and the individuals I guess wanting to come to me more than wanting to come to him. I have another story about when Johnson had his gall bladder problems, and I'll have to tell you about that because that'll come up in a subsequent period as we're going through. Where he picked up the telephone and grabbed it, he ran out of the internal office area and grabbed the telephone because he was pretty certain it was the President calling at about eight o'clock at night. This was the kind of a situation that, you know, he became a little bit paranoid about my . . . I think he was afraid that I would become more powerful than he in the particular office and that I would then become Physician to the President.

That's kind of what . . . well, he'd already told me that, you know, staying there, he said "Stay here, you're just fine, Jim. In awhile, you know, I'll leave and you can become Physician to the President." This was his approach and that did not particularly interest me, quite honestly. I was very happy with what I was doing and very happy to do what I did. And I did not necessarily want to be Physician to the President, which is what he had struggled with. And then there became two Physicians to the President because when President Kennedy was assassinated George Burkley took over the title of Physician to the President as well as did Janet Travell. And that would have caused a major problem in case the 25th Amendment had been there.

I'm going to back up just a little bit because there's a couple of little things that are of some significance I think that makes a very key impact on just the personality of both President Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy. And I thought about it a little bit and I decided I'd better put it in anyway.

Okay.

Interview 3

Last time we left you right about the time of 22nd of November and we said we would talk about it.

I'm going to back up just a little bit because there's a couple of little things that are of some significance I think that makes a very key impact on just the personality of both President Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy.

Anyway before, maybe in September, in August and September and October, I began to travel quite a bit behind Mrs. Kennedy with the Secret Service in their car and Mrs. Kennedy and the two children would frequently go up to Camp David and President Kennedy would stay in his office and work until Saturday morning and then he would fly up in a helicopter. At that time probably Doctor Burkley would go with him. And when Doctor Burkley would come up to Camp David. Then he or I would exchange and one of us would go home and the other would stay for the weekend, you know, taking care of things up there. And, of course, this was a Navy base actually controlled by a Navy commander and all the Marines there. So it was really appropriate for us because we would do physical exams for the people up there. Take care of them and take care of whatever their needs were and make sure that the underground . . .

Well, there is a beautiful, safe nuclear shelter built right into the rock underneath Aspen. And Aspen is the cabin in which the President stayed. I usually stayed in Walnut, which was just down around the corner a little bit, but it was a marvelous area to be in.

Anyway, I would go up with the Secret Service in a backup car behind Mrs. Kennedy and the two children and, on occasion, the children just loved to stop at the snake farm at the bottom of Thurmont or at Thurmont, thereabouts. And we would go in and they would walk around and look at these pits and everybody was very excited to see them there and the individuals would come over and begin their demonstrations with the snakes. And they would show how if you put a white balloon down in with the rattlesnakes they wouldn't even bother the white balloon, but if you put a red balloon down they would strike it because of the heat distribution by the red balloon but not the white balloon.

I'll never forget it because it was a demonstration that John-John got a great kick out of. So I would stay with Mrs. Kennedy in the evening generally and I'd have not very much to do, and then President Kennedy would come up usually on a Saturday morning and stay for the rest of the weekend. So there was another time that, you know, I'd get to see him on occasion, but generally there was no real interchange.

But on the, let's see, 22nd, 21st . . . on the 20th of November, my wife and I had an invitation to come to our first White House reception. This reception was for the judiciary in which they had all of the Attorneys General from all the states, all the Supreme Court Justices and all of the major judiciary of the United States would come to Washington for this Judicial Reception which was quite a get together. Well, for a junior officer like I had been, I did not mention to you that, in about September 1, I had orders originally to the White House as Assistant White House Physician.

On about September 1, that was changed to White House Physician as my title. Well, that's an interesting problem because White House Physician has had in the legislative activity of the Congress a designation that any physician in the military who becomes White House Physician is automatically elevated to the rank of Colonel in the Army or Air Force or Captain in the Navy, whatever they were, wherever they came from. So as Lieutenant Commander I came to the White House and as of September 1 I jumped to Captain in the Navy at the ripe age of 34.

That's skipping Commander.

And skipped Commander, yes. Exactly. That was because of the law that was passed in Congress. Of course, that law only takes precedence as you're in the White House during that period of time. That is a temporary rank and when you leave the White House, of course, you have to give up that particular title and its perks. Of course, the return monetarily was quite significant as far as my wife and I were concerned, jumping from Lieutenant Commander to Captain. But anyway, that happened about September 1st and then we got this invitation, oh probably about the second week or the first week in November to attend the Judicial Reception which was essentially two days before President Kennedy's assassination.

Well, we went to it. Obviously, you wouldn't turn that down for anything. And I must tell you that there was a Major Stover who was the Head of the White House Police who at that time were a separate entity from the Secret Service. They had not been conjoined as yet. So Major Stover, who was the Head of the White House Police, had been at the White House, oh, some 23 or 24 years. He had never been invited to a reception in the White House in those 23 years. However, President Kennedy had seen fit to invite him and his wife to the Judicial

Reception, and we met him there and he and his wife were absolutely elated. Just absolutely delighted because this was their first time after 23 years in the White House with the White House Police.

Well, anyway, my wife and I, of course, in the White House I would drive a car on my own because I had to be in contact with Carpet which is the central dispensary point and garage for all the automobiles for the White House.

What was it called?

It was called . . . the call name was Carpet. And at the time my name was "Sunburn."
[laughter]

Sunburn huh?

Yes. I got a second one after the Johnson Administration took over, I got a different name then. Under the Johnson Administration I was "Mussel," M-U-S-S-E-L. But at that time the Secret Service had a kind of a joking way of pointing to these things and I am of somewhat fair complexion being a Teutonic-based individual, I sunburn easily. So whenever I got in the sun I would get red and that was probably why they gave me the moniker of "Sunburn."

Anyway, the car, I would have a car to drive to and from my home and in the car, of course, I would keep in contact with the radio to the base Carpet in case anybody needed me at any time I was always accessible. I also had a White House telephone with a separate line in our home and which was a white phone, of course, a number of them. And all I had to do was to pick up that phone and I would get the White House operator on the other end immediately. So I was constantly in touch as far as the White House was concerned. They have this as a necessity really.

So that night my wife and I, Bettylu and I, went down to the White House and we parked on West Executive Drive right outside of our offices on West Executive Drive with the Mercury. There's an interesting story about that how President Truman once went to New York for a trip. And originally I guess underneath President Roosevelt, they had always had the General Motors Cadillacs that would drive them around in all the cities that they visited.

Well, President Truman went up to New York once and apparently they couldn't get at Cadillac for him to ride down through New York in a parade. And what happened was, he was essentially shunned by the General Motors Corporation in New York City. The Ford Company stepped up and gave him a Lincoln, and from that point with Harry Truman through the period of time that I was there in the White House there was nothing except Ford automobiles, namely Lincolns and Mercuries. And we had a whole fleet of black Mercury cars with radios in them and I would use one of them, maybe 20 or 25 cars. Actually, I subsequently bought one of those Secret Service station wagons for my family at a very reasonable price, which they sold them every year.

Anyway, we got to the White House and when we got there we went into the dispensary office, the Doctor's Office right there on that particular floor, and Doctor Burkley and his wife were there, delightfully so, and who would walk in but Dave Powers and his wife. And Dave Powers said come with me. He said, I know a good way to get up to the first floor without going through a whole bunch of nonsense about going through the front door. He said let's go this way. So we went up, of course, up the stairs, back through past the Rose Garden and then underneath and then up the stairs and into the main foyer area.

When we got there Doctor Burkley said, "Now this is going to be the first outing for Jacqueline since she lost the little Patrick back this summer." This was her first outing as a matter of fact officially for any White House activity. So he said "What's going to happen is they will come down the grand staircase, from the grand staircase they will go turn left and they will go to the East Room. Then from the East Room they will go into the Red Room, from the Red Room they'll go to the Blue Room, from the Blue Room they'll go to the Green Room. And from the Green Room they'll go to the West Ballroom, they come back out in the foyer and go back upstairs." He said "In order to see them we have to station ourselves in just exactly the right place so let's go into the Blue Room," which is the oval room above the Diplomatic Reception Room right down below. And he said, "We'll stay here and when they come down they'll do exactly as I said and they'll go through." So they did.

Well, up through this particular period of time, I thought that President Kennedy probably knew me as Doctor Young. You know, I thought this was probably what he knew me by because I'd seen him a number of times. He'd called me up to the office a number of times, having taken care of John-John as I said before, and having gone with Mrs. Kennedy up to Camp David and seeing him at Camp David. I felt, you know, in seeing him that once a month with all the doctors and evaluating him I felt that he probably knew me as Doctor Young. Well, I'd also taken care of, you know, Kenny O'Donnell and Dave Powers and Dave Powers was a very close intimate friend of JFK's. And, you know, Ted Sorenson would come down and through these people, by taking care of them, I think that they made comments obviously to the President too about me.

But anyway, we went up and we stood in this particular area and sure enough here comes President Kennedy down with Mrs. Kennedy and she was just ravishing that night. She was absolutely gorgeous. And they went into the East Ballroom and then from the East Ballroom they went into the Red Room and then they came into the Blue Room.

Well, in the Blue Room, lo and behold, here we stood. Doctor Burkley, his wife, Isabelle, myself and my wife, Bettylu. And at that time President Kennedy going through greeted Doctor Burkley and introduced Mrs. Kennedy to Mrs. Burkley and they were chatting a few moments and then he turned to me and I introduced him to Bettylu standing beside me at the time. And at that particular point he took Jacqueline, he said Jackie I want you to meet Mrs. Young. He said this is Doctor Young's wife. And I said, "He knows my name and all; that's wonderful."

And at that particular point, to show you his empathy, understanding and great political sense, I think, he leaned forward between my wife and I's head and directed his comment to me and he said, "How are you this evening, Jim?" That's the kind of a man he was. I didn't even think he would even recognize my last name, let alone he knew my first name.

And that's a story . . . my wife, Bettylu, was just absolutely out of her mind because of the fact that he had called me Jim and she made a big furor out of it which was really delightful, of course, to understand that he felt so strongly about us. But then, of course, we talked with Major Stover while he was there and his wife and they were just as happy as two clams. But that was two nights before his assassination.

Then we move on to the day of the assassination, and on the day of the assassination I had just gone to the White House Navy Staff Mess which they have there still run by Navy personnel, as you probably are fully knowledgeable about.

Yes.

A lot of them Filipino, but magnificent food. Just delightful food at a low cost and run as a Navy Ward Room, an Officer's Ward Room, on board ship. In other words, you bought into that particular Navy Mess really. You paid \$25 dollars in, they would then provide you with a silver napkin ring with your name on it and on the other side White House Staff Mess, which I still use my solid silver napkin ring every night that we have dinner with my wife and me. Obviously, I still have it.

Well, that was another interest that I have to mention later on. Don't let me forget it because as I was there . . . well I better say the comments now. When I got there, of course, I joined the Mess and I got my napkin ring. And after I got my napkin ring, which took about six weeks or eight weeks to get it because they engraved it and all, George Burkley came to me and he said, Jim, he said I don't know what to do with this. He said the Navy Mess gave it to me and he said I'm going to give it to you. He said "This individual was going to join the Navy Mess but they found some problems in his background and thus they never approved him for the joining of the Navy Mess, and I want to give it to you and you can do with it what you want. You can take his name off of it and use it as a napkin ring or whatever." But it was a White House Navy Staff Mess napkin ring. However, the name on it was of interest and if I could remember it exactly, it was Max Jacobson, M.D. Ever heard the name?

He was somewhat controversial as I recall.

Very controversial. He was the individual that gave Pierre Salinger the injections on the 50-mile trek that Salinger did.

Yes.

Which was probably amphetamines and that's what happened. He was rejected from getting into the White House for clearance on the basis that he was giving out drugs to various individuals inappropriately. The Secret Service and the FBI caught him and that's why George Burkley gave me his napkin ring, because he couldn't be passed for security issues to get into the White House. So that's the story on Max Jacobson's napkin ring.

I unfortunately have taken Max's name off of the napkin ring by sanding it off, but I still have the napkin ring with a blank side if somebody wanted to bring it out and I'm sure they could go ahead and bring out the stamping that had occurred. It would still have the name Max Jacobson on it.

That's interesting.

Anyway, back to the point of where we met in the Navy Mess and I was with a gentleman by the name of Jack McNally. Jack McNally was one of President Kennedy's friends from Massachusetts who was essentially running White House details, oh, all the ushers and the Head Usher and all the ushers that were there and all the cleaning people, the lady who did all the sewing, all of that. He had to manage that. He was kind of like a Superior Housekeeper because they had a Housekeeper and he was the right-hand man of JFK to take care of the finances and whatnot over these individuals in the White House.

Anyway, Jack McNally and I had just finished lunch and I went into the Doctor's Office. About ten minutes to one, I guess it was about that time, and all of a sudden Jack McNally bursts into the reception room of our offices there on the ground floor which is really right across from

where the White House Staff Mess is. And he said, "Jim, for God's sake, come with me. The President's been hit." And I said, "What?" He said, "The President's been hit in Texas. Come with me." And from that point on, it was just a wild maelstrom because we ran from the basement floor of the West Wing. We went up the flight of stairs, across past the President's office, across the Rose Garden area, through the bottom first floor area of the White House, past the Diplomatic Reception Room, through the other side of the White House through what's now the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden. To the East Wing of the White House, then up three flights of stairs to the second floor of the East Wing of the White House, which is where Jerry Behn, who was the Head of the Secret Service at the time. His name is B-E-H-N I think, had his office. And we ran up to his office and as we entered the office area Jerry had two desks abutted front to front so one would sit on one desk, would look across and see the other individual sitting at the other desk face-to-face. And on the other side of this first desk was sitting Ted Sorenson and he had a telephone. And when I came into the room Ted said to me, he said Doctor, he said, I think you'll make more sense out of this than I. He said, "this is an open line to Parkland Memorial Hospital Emergency Room and we have a Secret Service man on the other end and he'll describe what's going on." I said, "okay," so I picked up the phone and at that time I had a little about three inch wide by four inch notebook that I carried that I'd make notes on to make sure that I didn't forget something or other, so I flipped my notepad out and threw it down on the desk, got my pen and got on the phone to this Secret Service man and I was going to make notes on what the President's injury was. Well, what happened was I did make notes but the only thing that I wrote down as he described the wound to me I wrote down "head" and I underlined it about four times. And that's all I wrote because after I finished listening to what he said I looked up at the other individuals. Major Stover was there, Jerry Behn was there, Ted Sorenson of course, Jack McNally. And I looked up and I said, "He won't make it." And at that particular point we all kind of just slumped, but I didn't write anymore in that particular little notebook and I still have that notebook with that note written on it which is rather telling.

Yes.

Anyway, with that it was over. In other words, I had had the description of his terrible wound that the entire right posterior area of his head was blown apart and I said "Okay, then we have to go back and get ready for them to come back." So I went back to the Doctor's Office and I immediately got on the phone to Bethesda and fortunately at the time the Commanding Officer out there had been the former Chief of Medicine under whom I had trained and his name was Canada, Robert O. Canada.

Wasn't his nickname "Jiggs?"

His nickname was "Jiggs," you're right. Absolutely, a wonderful person. In fact, we named our fourth daughter after his wife, Judy. But we were close friends. Anyway, I got on the phone to then Admiral Canada and I described to him what the situation was. And that I had alerted the Military District of Washington to be on standby because we didn't know how severe the situation was, whether there was going to be a charge on the White House, you know, like the terrorists or whatever.

We had no idea what was going on so we had the major alert that had to be sounded which we did. And Admiral Canada said, "well, why don't you have somebody send out some Marines to go ahead and guard our gates out here so we can shut down everything and keep it

under control.” I said “Fine, I'll go ahead and do that.” Which I did and thus they then sent out Marine detachments from D.C. and closed down the gates to Bethesda.

Obviously, I was on the phone to George Burkley from Air Force One. And he told me what had transpired and how President Johnson was now President, had been sworn in on Air Force One and that they were on their way back and that he had talked to Mrs. Kennedy. And Mrs. Kennedy had decided that she would have the autopsy done at Bethesda.

Wasn't that a bit controversial later on?

Well, the problem that occurred already back in Texas, because the . . . I don't know, the prosecutorial attorney or whatever it was that was in control in Dallas was not going to release the body to anybody because it was a case of homicide and it was in his jurisdiction to control that particular body until such a time as the homicide could be, I guess, concluded or the investigation concluded and go on from there. And it took Bobby Kennedy to call the Attorney General of Texas to get the attorney from the Dallas area to release the body so that they could put it back on Air Force One and bring it back to D.C. And that's what actually was done. He actually interceded with the Attorney General of Texas and got the body on Air Force One. Well, one the way back obviously Doctor Burkley had talked with Mrs. Kennedy. And he was on the plane with them and had told me, you know, that we should prepare Bethesda to receive the body and that they would be doing the autopsy in Bethesda. And I should notify the pathologist to go ahead and get individuals who were appropriate to do the job, and that I had done. At that time there was a Commander Jim Humes was the Chief of Pathology at Bethesda and there was another gentleman by the name of Boswell, Commander Boswell, I've forgotten his first name, who was another individual who was the Assistant Chief of Pathology at Bethesda at the time. So the two of them and then they decided, Jim Humes decided, that he wanted a forensic pathologist also there. So he called over to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and got another pathologist from over there who had done a lot of forensic work on individuals who had died in the service and had had evaluations and, you know, had a lot more knowledge about doing autopsies on individuals who had complicated issues. His name was Finck, F-I-N-C-K.

Yes, Pierre, Pierre Finck.

Peter Finck, right. And he is now in Switzerland.

Right.

I can tell you about that later on because I've got some other things that I need to go through on it. But anyway what happened was the body coming back from Texas, they came into the Air Force Base there in D.C., Andrews I think it was.

Right.

And offloading the casket, they were offloading the casket off of I guess it was a truck that came from the airplane to put it into a Navy ambulance and as they left it down it slipped and it actually broke off one of the pieces of the coffin, one of the handles off the coffin. So there's been a lot of furor about, well, Kennedy left Texas in no body bag or anything and he came out.

And, lo and behold, when he got to Bethesda they had a different coffin and they had him in a body bag. Well that's what happened. They had to change coffins before they took him out to Bethesda. So they changed the coffin to get one that did not have a broken handle on it, and

apparently put him in a body bag, I would guess, at that particular time. That explains that particular situation or at least it explained it to me at that time.

Humes, Doctor Humes, in his article that he wrote for *JAMA* back in '92 states clearly when the body was brought into the hospital it was not in a body bag, but it was draped in apparently a sheet or something. He said there was no body bag at all.

No problem then. I have no difficulty with that description whatsoever. I know that they had changed the coffin because of the broken handle. I know that. That's as far as I would go. But I heard that the explanatory aspect could be that he was put into a body bag in case, you know, they changed him from one coffin to another. But that doesn't make any difference to me. In a body bag or not in a body bag. As far as Jim Humes was concerned, unfortunately, he's dead. I have to tell you about that later on. I've got some other things that are a problem for me and I'm still trying to pursue it. I'm actually pursuing it with Senator Arlen Specter at this particular moment.

So at least this past August I did. I sent him a letter requesting him to review something that I'm going to go ahead and read into the record for you. Let's see. We are now about to go to Bethesda. Let me do this. Well, I can shorten it up a little bit. President Kennedy went to Bethesda, Mrs. Kennedy went to Bethesda with a number of others. She was out there with Dave Powers, with Kenny O'Donnell, the Secret Service, of course, and a Doctor Walsh, I think was his name, was her obstetrician and gynecologist. And she had obviously a great rapport with him and had had the loss of her child, you know, that summer and Doctor Berman had been a great deal of help with her. So he was called in by her I think and went to the 17th floor at Bethesda which is the flag area at Bethesda and that was where they actually occupied themselves until the autopsy was finished.

Well, the autopsy began around five or five-thirty in the afternoon and actually went until four-thirty the following morning. And I was still in the White House at around five o'clock or thereabouts and there were a couple of corpsmen still there. And I said, well, I thought I was going to go out to Bethesda because George Burkley had gone along with the body and whatnot out to Bethesda. And I said I'm going to try and get Doctor Burkley to go ahead home and get some rest because he's obviously, as I said before, he was probably 30 years older than I at the time and I was a little bit concerned for his welfare. So I said I'm going to go out to Bethesda and I'm going to try to relieve him out there. And I'll stand by at Bethesda and I said you folks here go ahead and lock up and you can go home after that if you choose or whatever you wish to do. Well, they all came out to Bethesda, all the corpsmen who were assigned to the White House at the time.

Now what time of day was this?

This was about four-thirty, five o'clock in the afternoon. Of the 22nd. Right. Now the following day I stayed at the autopsy all night long with both Doctor Burkley and watched Jim Humes and Boswell and Finck do their job with X-rays and pictures and whatnot. And it's terribly unfortunate that Doctor Burkley actually gave an order to Jim Humes sometime later at the request of Robert Kennedy, I believe, that all of the autopsy notes that he had taken and done during the autopsy he should destroy. Which apparently he did, Jim Humes, which is a tragedy because I think that it's too bad. Only to go ahead and keep the lid on the fact that President

Kennedy really did have Addison's disease, and on autopsy he had no evidence of any adrenal glands at all. None. They couldn't find any piece at all.

They had atrophied?

They had atrophied totally away. There were none there. There were no adrenal glands found at autopsy. Now that's because of perhaps two reasons. One, because he may have had the Waterhouse Fredrickson Syndrome when he had his back plate removed. But on the other, it could be also that by substituting steroids on a daily basis and continuing him on steroids his adrenal glands would have atrophied also in that case. So either way, he was certainly Addisonian. So that brings us to the following day, and the following day I was in the White House . . .

Let me backtrack just for a moment. So you were actually present then during at least part of the autopsy?

Practically the whole autopsy.

The whole thing?

The whole thing. I have something here that I was going into the next day that'll explain even more to you. This will explain considerably more, let's put it that way. What it amounts to is the following day I was in the White House all day waiting on Mrs. Kennedy and I talked with her a couple of times that day and I took care of her that night. And I stayed in the White House actually three straight days. I slept in the Doctor's Office in the White House. But on the 23rd of November, sitting in the afternoon, I couldn't stand to watch the television any more because there was furrowing over who shot whom and what was going on with Oswald and all that sort of stuff.

So I sat down and I said, you know, I don't know what's going to happen to me or my family because now President Johnson is going to be here. And he has two doctors that I know of, Doctor Jim Cain out in Mayo Clinic and Doctor Willis Hurst, J. Willis Hurst, who was the Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Emory Medical School. And I said those were very close to him and Willis Hearst had taken care of President Johnson while he was at Bethesda during his heart attack and so they were still very close. So I didn't know what was going to happen.

So I sat down on Saturday afternoon, and I wrote this whole epistle, and I'm going to read it to you. This is called "What Price a Rose?" "President John Fitzgerald Kennedy began a trip to Texas in a jubilant mood because for the first time in many months his wife was accompanying him. He was in robust health having no difficulty with his chronic back problem. He was well-controlled on his other medications, even so much as to say finitely controlled. Doctor Burkley was relaxed and looked forward, somewhat skeptically, to the Texas trip. His immediate problems with Doctor Travell were at least superficially controlled."

Now remember, this was the day after his assassination. I'd written all of this. I still have it, of course. "After a few speeches in Dallas on the morning of the 22nd of November, 1963, President Kennedy took the lead car in a motorcade to the Trade Fair. Unfortunately, as usual, with the President's consent, Doctor Burkley and Chief Hendricks were following in a 'VIP Bus' about six cars behind the lead car. Chief Hendrix was the first in the bus to note something wrong. He saw people suddenly start falling to the ground far up ahead.

Then the motorcade began to speed forward. At this time, Chief Hendrix spoke to the local District Attorney and said 'I think something's wrong.' (He was oh so very right.) The 'VIP Bus' continued to the Trade Fair, when attempt was made to find someone with information regarding the whereabouts of the President when it was noted that he was not at the Trade Fair. Doctor Burkley, Chief Hendrix, Mrs. Gallagher," who by the way was Mrs. Kennedy's Social Secretary, "and Mrs. Lincoln made their way to an exit with the Secret Service men. They stated that contact was lost between the President's car and their radio.

Then word was obtained that the President was at Parkland Memorial Hospital. Within five minutes Doctor Burkley and his group were at the hospital. When Doctor Burkley arrived, the President was already in the emergency room. He had a cut-down in place and a tracheotomy was being performed. Meanwhile, external cardiac massage was being applied. Solucortef was given IV and an external cardiac pacemaker was obtained. Doctor Burkley immediately evaluated the situation as hopeless as soon as he saw the gaping, bloody macerated huge wound and defect in the right posterior occipital area. He went outside to talk to Mrs. Kennedy and brought her inside for a few moments for her to view the scene. She stayed for a few moments, then went outside. The two priests arrived and the Last Sacrament was given to a presumably dead man.

Doctor Burkley then broached the news to Mrs. Kennedy who briefly broke down and cried. She then went inside and getting down on her knees was led in ten minutes of prayer by the two priests. It is necessary in this brief chronicle to give expression to some of the difficulties inherent in this situation. Doctor Burkley had come to the White House as Assistant White House Physician. Primarily, by virtue of the fact that he had been Commanding Officer of the Washington Naval Dispensary on Constitution Avenue and because he had traveled around the world with former President Eisenhower. Doctor Janet Travell had been appointed by President Kennedy as Physician to the President because of her loyal political support and because of her previous contribution by procaine injections and ethylchloride sprays to get him off his crutches and walking after serious surgery to his back for a fusion met with subsequent infection. (Reported in *New England Journal* about 1957) He was a U.S. Senator at that time. She also had a picture in her office quoting almost directly 'To Doctor Janet Travell without whom all of this would not have been possible.'

Great feeling was obviously held for Doctor Travell by President Kennedy, however because of her nature of handling patients she sought perhaps through no direct malice on her part to subjugate the patients under her care to her. She was repetitively injecting procaine into the President on an almost daily basis.

At this point Doctor Eugene Cohen became more of an active figure. Doctor Cohen had long been a personal friend of President Kennedy and had treated him for a number of years for his adrenal insufficiency. It became obvious to Doctor Cohen and Doctor Burkley that the President was not progressing satisfactorily because of multiple injections and a gradual deterioration of his chronic back problem was occurring. At that time Doctor Cohen and Doctor Burkley talked to Mister Kenneth O'Donnell in reference to the entire situation. Doctor Cohen spoke to the President and by his urging and referring specifically to former Congressional Speaker Sam Rayburn's delay in treatment (Doctor Travell advised again Speaker Rayburn going to Mayo Clinic early in the course of his undiagnosed back difficulty and continued to treat him with sprays and injections), Doctor Cohen convinced the President to appoint Doctor Burkley Physician to the President.

At the time prior to Doctor Burkley's appointment Mrs. Kennedy was disenchanted with Doctor Travell. However, after Doctor Burkley's appointment Mrs. Kennedy championed Doctor Travell, perhaps out of distrust at Doctor Burkley for perhaps usurping Doctor Travell's position. This then continued into quite a novel situation of Doctor Burkley taking care of all the needs of the President and Doctor Travell taking care of all the needs of Mrs. Kennedy, the children and most of the female companions of Mrs. Kennedy.

Obviously, a wide schism developed between Doctor Burkley and Doctor Travell, Doctor Burkley being openly antagonistic toward her statements and at times machinations to those with a sympathetic ear. Doctor Travell, either surreptitiously or otherwise, wooed the Air Force Surgeon General and attempted to woo the Army Surgeon General as well. This caused Doctor Burkley great concern because he neither had the appetite for this type of activity nor the desire to compete. Thus with a few exceptions, Doctor Burkley was unable to treat Mrs. Kennedy or to regain her confidence. Through two-and-a-half years Doctor Burkley traveled on every trip which the President made without a single weekend of relief. Whether he actually did this because of his tremendous devotion to the President or because of perhaps some personal ambition or both will ever be unknown. After my entrance into the scene, Doctor Burkley relaxed somewhat but because I was a definite competitor in medical care and because I had more recent medical knowledge, his relaxation was not of a very considerable degree.

Finally, on November 19th, 1963, after prolonged tiring weekend he did take an afternoon and evening off allowing me to shoulder the responsibility of treating the President if it were necessary. I was fortunate in that he did call and I was able to talk to him and treat him for a minor skin irritation with Kenalog S. This discussion and treatment resulted, I'm sure, in his greeting me after I introduced my wife to him with "how are you tonight, Jim?"

This comment was only vaguely heard by me, but was heard clearly by Bettylu. Thus the setting for the rose story. After Doctor Burkley and Mrs. Kennedy had prayed, Doctor Burkley picked up two of Mrs. Kennedy's bouquet of roses which had been stuffed into a trash can. The two beautiful American roses falling to the floor. These were the roses that Doctor Burkley picked up and put into his pocket. Mrs. Kennedy refused to leave the side of her husband and from that moment until this she has been either in the same vehicle or the same building with her husband.

In the ambulance carrying the body to the waiting Air Force One plane Doctor Burkley, who was sitting on the ambulance floor beside the unanchored casket carrying his beloved President, gave the two roses to Mrs. Kennedy. He said that since the roses had been in the room during the entire time of the emergency treatment he thought that she might like to have them. Thus, she took the roses in her blood-caked gloves and put them into her blood-spattered jacket pocket. Mrs. Kennedy had been urged to change her clothes because her stockings were all blood-spattered and her gloves soaked with blood, but she said, "So, I want everyone to see and remember this horrible thing."

After the distressing flight of Air Force One to Washington during which the whole world stood shocked, stunned, bewildered and sorrowed, the casket was taken from the plane and a small piece was broken from the bronze casket. A small side note was revealed when the City Coroner of Dallas refused to allow the President's body to be removed from Dallas because this was "a case of homicide." It was necessary to secure a ruling by the State Attorney General who said "waive all the restrictions now."

The President was taken to Bethesda Naval Hospital by Navy ambulance and an autopsy was to be performed. Mrs. Kennedy, Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Powers, Mr. O'Leary, Doctor Walsh (Mrs. Kennedy's obstetrician, probably her closest medical advisor) and Doctor Burkley went to the Presidential Suite on Tower 17 at the Naval Hospital. Doctor Walsh had met Air Force One at the airport after a call had been placed by Doctor Burkley from the plane. My day had been very usual with no real problems except to arrange a quadrennial physical for Secretary Orville Freeman to be held in the White House. He was a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps and had just finished talking to Mr. John McNally, a Presidential Special Advisor, about his recently diagnosed gallstones. It was about one forty and Chief Martinell had just had a telephone call from Chief Mills who said he just heard something on the radio about the President being shot. At the instant that Martinell was hanging the phone onto the receiver Mr. McNally burst into the Dispensary and said, "the President's been hit. Come with me, Doc."

We then went to the Secret Service Office with Mister Jerry Behn in the East Wing on the run, incongruous as it may seem, running through the beautiful marble and carpeted floors of the White House. It was a matter of Mister Behn keeping a line open to Dallas and giving us snatches of information. He said 'the President's been hit, in the head I think.' At about one fifty, he said 'they say the President's critical and that Governor Connelly has been hit too.' At this point I turned and said 'I'm afraid that's it' and walked suddenly feeling horrified and dejected toward the door making a thumbs-down gesture. At about one fifty-five Mister Behn said quietly "the President's dead." Major Stover of the White House Police who only two nights before had attended with his wife their first White House reception in his 23 years of service said "oh no." With that the room emptied and the whole mechanism of activity was transferred to Mister McNally's office.

I, feeling completely hollow, shocked and dejected, trudged slowly back to the Dispensary hardly noticing all of the historic evidences so aptly and appropriately, as well as tastefully, displayed by Mrs. Kennedy along the way. I obviously wondered what had happened and what this would do to the Nation with Lyndon B. Johnson as their leader, as well as what it would do the world and the much smaller world of the Youngs who so briefly had tasted the fleet pungent fruit of success and now the bitter harsh pill of disaster. This meant most likely that because Doctor Travell had been ministering all degree of succor to Vice President Johnson and since Doctor Burkley had not had one iota of treatment opportunity of the Vice President, the job of Presidential Physician would pass back to the lady physician.

With this idea gnawing at me, I went to the Dispensary, sat and stared at the horrible sad accounts coming from the television. I then began to have some information come to me about the President going to Naval Hospital Bethesda for an autopsy. This I just discovered by a phone call from Bethesda after which I immediately sought out the Naval Aide and inquired about the possibility. He said that he had the word and told Mister Cutcomb to make the arrangements. Thereafter, I was in contact with the hospital notifying Captain Canada of the projected arrival time, the probability of transport by helicopter of the body, and informing him that I had procured a security guard from the Military District of Washington to stand by at the heliport in Bethesda by his request.

Changes then indicated that the body would be brought to Bethesda by Navy ambulance. Captain Canada then requested the press official to help control the Press, which I attempted to obtain by a request to Mister Hatcher to no avail. After the third request to the now President Johnson's Press Secretary, I was successful. After completing my work here and talking to

Doctor Burkley by phone, it was decided that we all should go home since nothing further could be accomplished here. With that, Chief Hendrix and I left with Chiefs Martinell and Mills remaining to lock up.

I thought that on the way home I would stop and offer my assistance to Doctor Burkley at Bethesda and see if I could get him to get some rest. This was obviously to no avail. Upon meeting him there we were joined by Chief Hendrix who had just happened to go to the hospital as well. We shortly were joined by Chiefs Mills and Martinell who had brought an envelope to Bethesda which contained material removed from the convertible which they had been requested to obtain." This I'm going to put in parenthetically. This is not written. Doctor Burkley and I had requested them, at the request of Doctor Humes, to go down to the White House after three or four hours at the autopsy room. And Doctor Humes had said that he was missing some bones from the President's skull. And he wondered whether there might be some pieces left in the back of the Queen Mary and that he would like to get those pieces and bring them back to Bethesda so he could reconstruct the head.

That was the Presidential limousine, the Queen Mary?

That's right. That was the car in which President Kennedy was riding in Texas. And they did. They went down, both Chiefs Mills and Martinell went down to the White House and then this I'm going to continue. "The envelope contained three pieces of skull bone, one about three inches in diameter, another two inches in diameter and the third about one to one and a half inches in diameter. It also contained a brass slug about half a centimeter in diameter and distorted. These were found on the floor of the blood-spattered convertible. The convertible was splattered with considerable brain tissue. This also, I noted, on the back of the jacket of Agent Greer, the President's driver.

Another small incident occurring on the plane was when Mrs. Kennedy was convinced to take off her blood-soaked dried glove which after removal remained in the shape similar to a grasping hand or almost to the hand of a Pope's Benediction. All of the White House medical staff except Baltimore HM1 were then taken to see the remains of the man whom they had so valiantly and yet hopelessly maintained in excellent health by their physical therapy as prescribed by Doctor Hans Kraus. He had been brought into the treatment picture shortly after Doctor Burkley was designated as the President's physician.

When we saw the body it was amazing to see that the undertaker had already done a magnificent job. He was lying smiling beautifully with a shock of unusually colored auburn red rusty brown hair glowing. His look was of utter contentment. His worries had been passed from his shoulders to others and he had gone on to a far greater reward I'm sure. In heated discussions about his maintenance of Secret Service security measures he was overheard saying that he didn't want certain things because, as he said, 'I will not live in fear.' He had also commented just a week prior on his New York visit when he had no motorcade in New York that 'no one wants to shoot me.' When seeing him, I walked to the head of the table and looked at the gaping defect in the right posterior and middle cerebral areas, which had no obvious skull covering lying anywhere in sight.

It was determined that he had been struck by two bullets, the second most probably striking him in the right occiput with the bullet lodging in behind the right orbit or at least a fragment of the bullet lodging there. With the first shot he sat upright. The shot entered about

the level of the third dorsal vertebra exiting through the trachea. It was almost certain that he died within a very short time because of the extensive brain destruction.

It was determined later that the shot in his back exited through the trachea because the surgeon made a tracheostomy immediately at the site of the bullet's exit. But from the first cry from Mrs. Kennedy when she said 'oh no' and her husband slumped forward mortally wounded and dying with her hands covering his mutilated wonderful head, fate had taken its toll. And history again had repeated itself -- taking a president from office by death about every 20 years. (I had unfortunately remarked about this to others before and after I had accepted the position.) The scene, the setting, the background has now been laid. With all the trial and tribulation that has come to Doctor Burkley he had one glowing irreplaceable, touching and even heart-rending triumph. With Mrs. Kennedy's obvious antagonism toward him, he had asked her onboard Air Force One about the hospital to which the body was to be sent, stating that he had no preference whatsoever where the body should go. And that he wished only for her to choose to enable him to make the arrangements. Whether it was the touching tribute of the roses or whether it was from a deeper sense of respect, admiration and faith long held by Mrs. Kennedy but not expressed, she stated that the body was to be taken to the Bethesda Naval Hospital.

There in Tower 17 the price of the roses was again paid. Mrs. Kennedy called Doctor Burkley to her about an hour after his arrival in Tower 17 and in a side bedroom in a very touching tender moment, she presented one of the two roses to Doctor Burkley for his undivided, devoted, undying service to his most-respected President. With this the chronicle is complete and now only history and the future can tell what price the roses." And that I signed James M. Young, M.D., Physician to the White House, 23 November of 1963, White House Dispensary. It's all in longhand.

That's very eloquent, Doctor Young.

Well, it was something that I felt at the time, you know, and those things bring out that kind of eloquence. Okay, well I'll continue on because I gave this copy, of course this is all written in longhand, it's about 21 pages long on, you know, one of those tablet paper things, the lines and so forth.

And I've got the blue lines on it and all, just as it was. I took it over to Kinko's and had them duplicate it and I have given a copy of this to each of my eight children, so now it's kind of history. And on top of that I've got the original, it's in the safety deposit box that we have. But the most significant part of this is that after reading it, after having given it to our children, I reread it again before I gave it to them. And I came across this issue of the bullet that we had asked the two corpsmen to go down to the White House and pick up what was in the back of the car.

Right, right.

They picked up the bullet off of the floor in the back of the car. Well, I decided that this is something, you know, the third bullet has never been decided about ever, apparently. So what I did was I decided there was only person still alive from the original Warren Commission. I went through the entire Warren Commission book. I've got the whole report of the Warren Commission as a matter of fact. I went through the whole thing and there was nothing in it. Now, at that particular time nobody said anything about this. And I know what we did. We brought that in, I mean Chief Martinell and Chief Mills went to the White House, went to the

Queen Mary, got the stuff off of the floor in the back seat, brought it back out to us and we gave that to Commander Humes at the time.

I don't know what happened to it, so I decided that what I would do is I would write to President Ford, which I did. I wrote to President Ford and asked him, this was this past summer. I asked him about, you know, did he know anything about this particular bullet that was given to the autopsy surgeons and he wrote me back a very nice letter, said, "No, he didn't know anything about it, had not heard anything about it ever." Well, at that point then I began to look around for other issues and I found that Senator Arlen Specter had been an Assistant Counsel to the Warren Commission.

So I made a telephone call to Senator Specter's office, got one of his individuals, told that individual about what I had and what I was concerned about, and I wanted to talk with Senator Specter. Well, he did call me back and we spent, oh God, half an hour on a Friday night about ten thirty at night, he called me back and we talked about it. And he said well send me the material, he said, and I'll see what we can do. So I have sent him a copy of this, "What Price a Rose?" and asked him to look into what happened to that bullet. Now just to reassure myself, Chief Martinell unfortunately has died. Chief Mills had become a Lieutenant Commander in a Medical Service Corps and retired from the Navy.

However, I found him living in Johnson City, Texas, where he had been working for the Johnson family on the ranch and whatnot. But he had retired in Johnson City. I picked up the phone and I called him. He confirmed exactly what I had put down in my notes, that there was a bent brass slug that they had brought out that they had picked up off the floor of the Queen Mary.

So the bullet, again, was a copper-jacketed bullet like a military bullet?

No, it was a brass jacket. That's what I've described it as, a brass-jacketed bullet. It didn't look like it. I don't know, maybe it's copper, I couldn't tell. But it was that color of brass and it was slightly bent on the end. It was not a straight bullet. In other words, it had hit something and it bent and so I called Tom Mills and I said, "Tom do you recall this situation?" He said, "Yes I do" and he said, "You're exactly right." He said, "we did bring that slug out from the back of the Queen Mary." He never testified before the Warren Commission. He nor Chief Martinell ever testified before the Warren Commission. I have no idea where that bullet went, but I now have it in the hands of Senator Arlen Specter and now I have "What Price A Rose?" in the hands of a history person in the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

Well, thank you for sharing that with us.

Well, it's an interesting commentary and there's no question, well there's no question in my mind but the President was shot from behind. Something that other people don't really know and I never put it in this particular article is that people don't understand why President Kennedy, after the first shot, was not completely forward and fell on the floor of the car. But he had actually sat upright and both hands came up towards his neck apparently where the shot had come in from the back and exited his trachea. He put both hands up at that time. Well, people didn't know that we had him in a back brace from underneath his axilla to his hips, and he couldn't move forward or to the side.

But when he was shot in the right occiput, his entire left side, his entire motor cortex was destroyed. So he had no ability to control anything on his left side, and thus he slumped over and fell with his head down into his wife's lap, with this horrible gaping bleeding wound

showing up at her. And that's why she jumped up out of the car and tried to crawl over the back of the trunk. And that's when Clint Hill saved her by pushing her back into the back seat of the car. You remember seeing that someplace.

Yes, yes.

Well, that's exactly what happened, but his head fell down right in her lap with this terrible gaping bleeding mass of brain and whatnot that was there. And, of course, the thing that I've said in here about Bill Grier, his driver, who was driving the Queen Mary, he had brain tissue and blood spattered over his right posterior shoulder. Which in my estimation could only have made that bullet come from behind, not from the grassy knoll, not from the side, not from the air or whatever. It had to come from behind and spray forward onto his right shoulder.

Right, right. Any comments, any thoughts about Governor Connelly's wound?

Have no idea about it. None whatsoever. I don't have anything more than what, you know, what I've given you here. Obviously I wasn't there. I just got this from some of the individuals who had described things to me and what I knew from, you know, finding the bullet and the three pieces of skull. So this is, I guess, a good place to stop.

Yes, this is a good place. This puts us at the end of certainly November 23rd when you wrote "What Price A Rose?"

Yes.

Interview 4

We got hold of Tom Mills.

Yes, that's right.

And we're going to talk to him again today and set up a time for doing his interview.

Great.

And thank you for that tip. And we left off I think you were just about finishing up the autopsy and telling us about . . .

Talked about Boswell.

About Doctor Boswell.

Right, who is in Silver Spring supposedly.

Right.

That's where I talked to him last summer. And I did not call Peter Finck in Switzerland. That was about the bent bullet, and I still haven't gotten anything back from Senator Specter either. I spoke to him. I sent him a letter and I sent him a copy of the material that I wrote, you know, "What Price A Rose?" I actually sent him a copy of that last of August and I haven't heard back from him still. Which is not unusual for senators, they kind of forget things.

Well, for the night in question, that Saturday night November 22, obviously I stayed in the White House for three consecutive days. That was Saturday, Sunday. But on Monday . . . I

guess it was only two days, on Monday I went with Jacqueline and the children. We flew up to Hyannis where she stayed for the next 10 days and I stayed up there at the Captain's Table which is one of the motels there that we frequented and I saw her probably three to maybe even four times a day.

Now we had considerably long discussions and particularly since I was essentially the same age as she was. And also I had five children at the time and she had two and we both had mutual interests. She was quite interested in medical care and new medicines and seemed to have a bent towards the unusual aspects of homeopathic medicine, mainly she liked to take herbal materials and we talked about newer medications, one of which was Sparine as a matter of fact.

Sparine?

Sparine, S-P-A-R-I-N-E. And the other . . . oh, what was the other medication? Aspartame, A-S-P-A-R-T-A-M-E, or Aspartase. She was interested in taking these and we talked a lot about research and my research that I had done at the National Cancer Institute and some of the material that I'd done when I was the Assistant Director of the Tissue Bank at Bethesda. Like, you know, we went through my whole background I guess and my history as well, and we talked about it. She was interested in that and, of course, it kept her mind off of the problems that she had.

Anyway, we had lots of discussions. And I actually suggested to her that she shouldn't make her mind up too hastily about what she was going to do with the rest of her life because her children were going to need a father. And she would actually have to consider at some time the opportunity perhaps of getting married and providing them with a father. Little did I know that in a few years I would be faced with the same kind of a problem and then have to consider getting remarried after my first wife died of breast cancer.

It's a strange quirk of circumstance that occurred, but we did have a lot of discussions and during those discussions though she became very open with me and described some of the problems that she had. She was terribly concerned about some of the people who were there at the White House and described them to me as, well, Betty [Elizabeth] Chapowicki who was a Lieutenant in the Nurse Corps in the Navy who was there.

And I told you about her and I have talked with Captain Curto too, but she interpreted . . . well, she kind of described these individuals to me as Betty Chapowicki being "the spy." And then she described George Burkley as being trained in the Communistic type Navy [laughter] and she then described Doctor Eugene Cohen from New York, the endocrinologist, as a psychopath.

Wow. She had some definite opinions.

Well, she really did. And this is one of the reasons why I think the reflections in my commentaries from the "What Price A Rose?" can have a little bit more meaning because of these attitudes and ideas that she had at the time of the other doctors involved. And, of course, she did not like, generally, she did not like medicine particularly well and that's why I think she tried to go to the fringe aspects of medicine and attempt to get things like Sparine and Aspartame to improve health and what not.

Did her feelings have to do with the treatment of her husband medically do you think?

I don't think so. I think these were independent. I think these were instilled in her in the Auchincloss kind of concepts, which is not too unusual with individuals who have been brought up with considerable funds and not have to really cow-tow to physicians and do what they needed to do on orders from physicians. I think it had to do with her background primarily and where she derived.

Anyway, that night, the first night as I stayed there, you undoubtedly know something about the White House, but the White House second floor is very, very, very quiet at night when, you know, there's no one up there. Particularly because it's the family's quarters and servants or whatnot or the ushers do not go up there unless asked to go up. So that particular time Saturday evening Mrs. Kennedy called me from down in the Doctor's Office and I went up and we chatted for a few moments and she said, "You know, Doctor Young, I need to get rest tonight." And I said, "yes, I understand that you need to get rest and you certainly should." She said, "I want you to knock me out." And I said, "Oh, I would prefer not to do that. I would prefer to give you a Seconal tablet, 100 milligrams, and it's a quick acting barbiturate and you'll go to sleep without any problems." She said no, "I want you to knock me out. I want you to give me an intravenous and knock me out." And I said, "oh, I will do it, but I do it reluctantly because there's no one up here on the second floor." And she said, "well my sister, Lee, is in the next room" and that was Princess Lee Radziwill and she was going to sleep in JFK's bed.

So I said, "Okay, I'll go down and I'll do it. It's not to my best judgment to do this, but if you actually really want to I will comply and do it." And it caused one of the most harrowing experiences in my career as a physician, I think. So I went down and I got the 500 milligrams of intravenous liquid amytol and brought it back in a syringe and I put the tourniquet on and I gave her slowly the injection.

And this was about I would say ten o'clock at night, ten-thirty, and gradually gave it to her. And she went off to sleep very, very, very quietly and then after I had given her the whole 500 milligrams I thought "oh goodness, gracious, sake's alive and there's nobody up here on the second floor. Now, what if she aspirates, or what if she doesn't wake up or she becomes too deep?" So I had actually to stay and I stayed by her bedside for the next three hours and monitored her pulse and her respirations until I guess it was about maybe one, one-thirty, when she actually moved in the bed on her own. And I felt that, well, she was able to be aroused at that time and so then I left for her to go back to sleep and sleep soundly.

What was her concern about why she preferred the intravenous amytol to the Seconal?

She wanted a quick-acting knockout. She said I want to be knocked out and I want you to knock me out so that I can get some rest because otherwise I won't get any rest. So I did, as I said, reluctantly and then I scared the devil out of myself because of the fact that I had given her this medication and there was no one there to go ahead and monitor her. And Lee Radziwill was asleep in the next room, but she wouldn't know anything if she had any problems. So that's why I stayed with her until much of the amytol had been metabolized I guess and she actually moved about.

So that was a little bit frightening though. So that on Sunday, obviously it was the day of the . . . I believe it was the day they had the showing of JFK in the White House. Well, they had that on Saturday as well. They had Mass in the White House in the afternoon for President Kennedy. And then on, I think it was on Monday, I can't recall exactly the day, I'm pretty sure it was on Monday that we got into the airplane and flew up to Hyannis and then we stayed in

Hyannis for the next period of I'd say ten days. That was over the holidays, over the Thanksgiving holidays too.

Well, while you were up there in Hyannis did you have any encounters with the rest of the Kennedy family? Bobby or any of those?

Yes and no. There were some that were over in the big house, but I primarily relegated myself solely to Mrs. Kennedy's activities. I think as I recall that Dave Powers had come up and there were others who were around, but not really getting in close contact with them because I did not have any activity with the rest of the Kennedy family at that time because there was no need to. But I do not believe that Bobby came up except at the holidays over the Thanksgiving holiday period and that was a time when the whole family got together and were there. But I did not join them obviously. I was not a member of that particular group.

What shape was Mrs. Kennedy in at this point?

She was doing extremely well. I was really quite surprised. She was a very bright, capable woman. In fact, unfortunately or fortunately, I had actually told my wife, I said that there would be only one other woman after I came back that could compete with her as an individual who I would have interest in. And I said that would be Jacqueline because she had a very bright, capable mind and was a very thoughtful, introspective, analytical person. And all of the things that were done to embellish President Kennedy's funeral even to the point of John-John's salute, I'm sure Mrs. Kennedy had orchestrated that to a significant degree. She was quite, quite a remarkable woman.

I guess there were some suspicions that the salute was not right off the cuff there.

Yes, it's possible. I would think that she had helped John in his particular approach on that. I would think so. But she was just . . . well, she took all of the historical aspects of it, put it all together and made a wonderful, I think, memorial to her husband through the funeral procession and all the trapping that went with it. It was just extremely well done.

I can certainly remember it myself. It was.

Yes.

Very moving.

Yes. She chose it extremely well and she chose the site perfectly well. All of it altogether was just done with the utmost taste of which Jacqueline had a marvelous capability. I have one remarkable and delightful memento from that particular visit at Hyannis. On the last day that we were there and probably the last day that I would see her officially essentially, she called me to her house. And in her bedroom she and I were . . . well, we had discussed on a daily basis maybe an hour at each sitting maybe three times a day. We had discussed all kinds of activities and backgrounds and whatnot.

And on that particular time she had called me and had me come to her bedroom and at that time she gave to me about a five by eight card and on it was typed a particular piece of information which was significant. This particular piece of information... well, it's not a piece of

information. It was actually a reading card that President Kennedy had had held in his hands at Carswell Air Force Base. The day, I think, before his assassination he gave a speech there and in the speech he had these what you would call reading cards. In other words, his speech was on cards.

Right.

And one of the cards, in fact she said this was the only card that had come back in his personal things in his junk drawer, contained a reference to medicine and a reference to medicine which I still have now in a safety deposit box. I put it away because it had a reference to . . . he did not know that the investigation of radar would lead to so many other aspects of advancement. The same as now there are so many advances in medicine that lead to other issues and other advances in the medical area. But what he did know was that research was essential and research would be essential in our future.

And since she and I had talked obviously about this at length he, in saying this and the only card that was brought back, she signed it and said if I can recall it. For Doctor Young, I want you to have this. This was a page out of the reading copy that the President presented at Carswell Air Force Base the day before he died. I want you to have it because you seem to me to be the type of doctor who will do all in medicine the President dreamed of. Jacqueline Kennedy. And obviously I have that copied and framed so that . . . it's a wonderful memory of our ten days together as a matter of fact. So that she gave it to me on the last day and to show you how youthful and young I was at the time I actually folded the thing up in half and put it into my inside pocket which I never should have folded it. But I did.

And then when I got back to the White House and we were there she said she didn't like something about what she had written, so she said could you give it back to me and I will change something in there. And apparently she did because there's now on that particular card two different types of ink, one at the top and one at the bottom, and she had changed the top one to say something different than what she had on initially and she had whited out the others. I don't know what it amounted to. I can't recall what it was at the time.

But, regardless, it's quite a memento from my personal point of view. So but we got back to Washington, D.C. and then she actually moved very quickly over to Georgetown and I went over to Georgetown a number of times to visit with her and the children and offer her any assistance that I could, but she seemed to be doing well. And Dave Powers was frequently there and helped a great deal, as was Bobby Kennedy as well. And I then gradually pulled away because my responsibility was for President Johnson and his family at the time. And President Johnson did not move into the White House until after Jacqueline had left the White House and moved her things out. And then he moved from, oh goodness, I'm blanking on the name of the home that was over in where the cherry blossoms are, but I can't remember the spot exactly. The Hostess with the Mostest, Pearl Mesta I think.

Pearl Mesta, yes.

The Johnsons were living in her house at the time. At the time the Vice President did not have a Presidential home as they do now in the Naval Observatory. At that time he was living over in Kenwood I think it is or something like that where the cherry blossoms are all great out in that particular area.

Anyway, each day that he would go to the office, go to the White House, I would have to meet the Secret Service at President Johnson's home. And then from there I would be going with them in a motorcade, short motorcade, to the White House where he would then stay for most of the day and do other things that he needed to do. And then after that was over I would have to travel back or George Burkley would travel back with him to the home in Kenwood I believe. And then we would then depart and pick him back up in the morning again until the whole situation was taken care of by him and his family being in the White House. So that occurred; I don't know the timing on it. It's written someplace I'm sure, but it took a number of days for that to occur, the transitional aspects of them moving into the White House and moving out of Jacqueline because President Johnson was very sensitive to not wanting Mrs. Kennedy to be moved very quickly. And he was very concerned about her and I think made a number of calls to her during that period of time.

Did your duties then begin to change under the new Administration in the White House Medical Office?

Not really change that much. There were issues that, well, we talked to President Johnson's cook and tried to get her to modify his diet somewhat because he had a tendency to gain weight. And we knew that he had cholesterol levels that were elevated and we wanted to modify those as best we could by having her modify the amount of fats that would be in his diet and so forth. We talked with her about that and tried to influence that particular aspect. President Johnson was very difficult to influence on some of these things because he had his own mind and his own way of doing things. There's a strange noise in the background.

There's an airplane going over.

Oh, okay.

We're right here, as you know, in the flight path to National Airport.

Oh, oh, that's . . . you're not very far from the Potomac if you're at BUMED.

No, right on the river here, pretty close.

Yes.

What do you remember about LBJ having to work with him as his physician? Were you closer to him than you were with President Kennedy?

I saw him much more frequently than I saw President Kennedy. Much more frequently. I would say that we saw him maybe three times a week, at least three times a week, and just, you know, to check in on him and take his blood pressure and to find out whether anything was abnormal or going off-base or whatever. And if you will recall in that "What Price A Rose?", I didn't know what was going to happen from the point of view of Janet Travell because she occupied the office that was just across from the elevator going to the second floor, and I knew that Doctor Burkley had not taken much of an advantage of taking care of the Vice President. He kind of shunned him as a matter of fact. I don't think he cared for him that much and therefore did not tend to him that closely, but Janet Travell of course did. And there was a question of whether Janet Travell would continue on as Physician to the President and still have George Burkley as Physician to the President as well.

In fact, there was an interesting problem that occurred there because there were two doctors in the Johnson background that were very significant. One was Doctor James Cain, C-A-I-N, who was from Mayo Clinic and had been a very close friend of Mrs. Johnson and the President for many, many years, extending all the way back into his run for the Senate as a matter of fact. And Jim Cain was a gastroenterologist and I think he was head of the department at Mayo Clinic, but he was a very close family friend and gave them much advice. The other individual who was involved with the Johnsons at the same time was a gentleman by the name of J. Willis Hurst, H-U-R-S-T, and he had been the Chief of Cardiology at Bethesda when President Johnson had his first coronary and was hospitalized at Bethesda.

There are stories told about President Johnson and how difficult he was and how difficult a patient he was. In fact, one of the corpsmen at one time has repeated the story to me that President Johnson while he was in the hospital in an oxygen tent actually lit a cigarette in the oxygen tent and the cigarette burned very quickly. And he was chastised for it and they then took away all of his cigarettes and I think from that point on he did not smoke a cigarette until I guess just a few years or maybe a year before his death. He went back to smoking cigarettes again.

That's a pretty I was going to say either gutsy or pretty stupid thing to pull.

Well, you choose the word or whatever it is because I didn't think it was . . . I think it was bold but this gives you an idea of how controlling President Johnson was. He was very, very much in control of everything underneath him. In fact, there's been a statement made that no one ever resigned from President Johnson's area or in his entourage; that they were only relieved by President Johnson. No one ever left him. That was kind of an understood statement.

Did you ever have conversations with him about various and sundry subjects?

I had conversations with him but it was primarily relative to medicine and what his particular approaches needed to be and how his exercise program should be and nothing really political or otherwise, not of any significance. His issues were . . . well, I'll give you an example. He had a bronchial problem. He had a cold, let's put it that way, and he had laryngitis and for the laryngitis and the cold he had a temperature elevation so we admitted him to Tower 17 at Bethesda and I can't recall the exact date or time, I think it was in '64 though. I'm pretty sure it was in '64. And he was there on the 17th floor and we were giving him cold moisture and giving him tesalon pills and put him on antibiotics. And we had him on a cough suppressant with Robitussin and the Deputy Press Secretary at the time, Mac . . . I've forgotten his last name, I can see his face but I can't remember his name, he wanted to know exactly what kind of medication the President was on. And I said I'm reluctant to go ahead and give that because we just didn't want to go in and influence anything outside of his treatment. And he said, no, I need to know this because the Press is bugging me about it. I have to tell them his temperature every three hours or something like that. It's Killduff was his name, it just came to me, Mac Killduff. And he said I need to know what it was or what his medications are. So I finally relented and I told him it was tesalon and I told him it was Robitussin and I told him that we had him on one of the new medications, a broad spectrum antibiotic at the time, I think it was acromycin, and he said oh fine, great. Well, I didn't know it but at that time, subsequently I found out about it, that this new medication, the acromycin, was a medication that was produced by Upjohn and Upjohn had the corner, of course, on the new antibiotic.

But the day after Mac Killduff announced to the Press and the Press carried it what the medications were for President Johnson, the stock market jumped five points for Upjohn. I think something like from 31 to 36 in one day because he had said that the President was on a new medication by the name of acromycin and, of course, Upjohn was the one. That taught me a big lesson, of course, subsequently as well.

Inside trading, huh?

Well, I'll tell, well all it had to do the issue was they knew that this was going to be a significant medication that was going to make a considerable sum for Upjohn because if the President was using it everybody else would want to use it. Anyway, that was one of the things, but now to go back to another issue on that same process. Though we had him on the newest medications and the cold mist vaporizer and so forth and had him at bed rest and the whole bit and giving him percussion therapy on his chest and all that, in addition to that he insisted on the night that he entered the hospital.

Now this was about one o'clock in the morning, he insisted that he needed something to go ahead and get rid of this cold and the only thing that we could do to get rid of that cold he said was to get a mustard plaster. This was at one o'clock in the morning. We had to send out our corpsmen, a couple of them, and they traversed wide and near to get him, believe it or not, a mustard plaster which was applied after we got it back, maybe about one-thirty or two o'clock in the morning, applied to his chest. And he did this because this is what his mother would do. His mother would take care of his colds in this fashion.

Well, we still continued him on the acromycin and the other issues and he cleared up very nicely. But that gives you kind of an idea of how he had a foot in two areas, one in the advancing area of medicine and the other in his own aspects of how he considered what would be best essentially for him.

Generally speaking, of course, later on it was fairly well known that he had hypertension and certainly heart disease. At this stage could you detect any of that?

Well, he didn't have much of a hypertension, let's put it that way. And he didn't have any symptoms related to his heart at all. None at all. He enjoyed the visitation of individuals from overseas, you know, heads of state. And he enjoyed taking them on rides in his open convertible on the ranch and he enjoyed going deer hunting and he would shoot deer from his car on his own land while having the other head of state with him in the vehicle. And I traveled to the LBJ ranch many, many, many times. In fact there's a couple of interesting stories that I have to go through with this.

Mrs. Johnson was a good and enjoyable bridge player. And it was not infrequent that when I was at the ranch taking care of the family down there that she would have a couple of her women friends come up from Austin or some other area from Texas to visit her. And when they visited her she would like to have a fourth for bridge and I was one of the individuals that sat in as a fourth for bridge with Mrs. Johnson and her friends. One of them I think was by the name of Mrs. Brown of Root, Brown and Root Construction I think it was that they were with in Texas.

But we did that and we sat right out in front of the guesthouse in beautiful weather. It was wonderful to do that. I also have to tell you a little story about Linda and Chuck Robb. Of interest is that Chuck Robb was the second in command of the Marine detachment when I was

assigned to the U.S.S. *Northampton*, and I think you recall the *Northampton* as being the command post afloat . . . Well he was the number two in command. There was another one by the name of Captain Bailey I think his name was.

Bailey?

Bailey, yes, who was a Marine Corps captain and he was the head of the Marines on our ship, the Marine detachment. But Chuck Robb was the second in command on there and he was a Lieutenant at the time. As the usual situation when President Johnson would have a State Dinner, one of us doctors would be required to stay and make certain that the guests were taken care of. And particularly one night I can remember very explicitly where Robert Goulet was going to sing for them and he had to come down to our office to see me. And I had to spray his throat with Cepacol and get him in tune because he had a little irritation of his throat and he wanted to be perfect. But anyway the issue was that I would have to stay for that particular evening activity. Well, at that time I knew obviously a number of individuals in the Federal government and when they had a reception I would be kind of bored sitting downstairs in the Doctor's Office. By the way, they had moved Doctor Burkley and I over. It took about a year before Janet Travell left the White House. And I have an idea that she had been promised by President Kennedy that she would be there for the four years that he would be in office and I think President Johnson adhered to that desire and she stayed, but she didn't really take care of very much. She didn't take care of President Johnson hardly at all and she took care of Linda and Lucy quite a bit and Mrs. Johnson on occasion. But she occupied that particular doctor's office area.

Anyway, at those times when they would have a reception for a head of state a wonderful, wonderful chef by the name of Renee Verdon was President Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy's chef. She had gotten him from New York from some area and he was a great French chef. He had been awarded Le Grande Toque from France at one time and he was just magnificent. But he would make the entire dinner and what would happen while I was in the office, he would bring a tray over of exactly what they were eating upstairs in the West Ballroom. And I would have the same meal that they had with him serving it to me across the hall from where the kitchen was, because the kitchen was right next to the elevator that led to the second floor.

So you ate well?

Oh, I ate extremely well. He was . . . well, he still is a great friend of mine and in fact Renee Verdon I was the best man at his wedding in San Francisco after we both had left the White House. He married a young lady by the name of Yvette who was the head of the Chanel distribution in the western part of the U.S., and he married her in San Francisco and I was best man at their wedding. Well we still continue to exchange information and greetings on occasion. But back to the White House and the reception. I would occasionally walk through the first floor where they were having all the reception lines and whatnot. And this one day I was walking through and lo and behold I spied in the oval room, that's the room above, that's the Blue Room actually above the Diplomatic Reception Room on one corner this very sharp looking Marine in dress Marine uniform. And lo and behold it was one Chuck Robb. And I said holy smoke.

So I walked over to him and I said, "Chuck Robb, what in the world are you doing here?" And he said, "Oh, sir, Captain," and of course, the typical Marine. He almost saluted me in that

particular room though I had no uniform on at all. And he said, "Sir," he said, "It's good to see you," and so forth. And I said ... well, to give you a bit of a prelude to this, this was just after Linda had gotten back from Acapulco where she had spent a week with George Hamilton, you know, the actor?

Yes, yes, yes.

She had spent a week down there with him and had just come back and he had kind of said goodbye to her and she was pretty low and she really needed to have a pickup. And I knew Chuck Robb from on the North Hampton because he was one of the bridge players that we used to play bridge with. The chaplain and the senior engineering officer and Chuck Robb and I would make a foursome not infrequently on the *Northampton* and we would play bridge.

Well, Linda I knew enjoyed bridge as well as well as did Mrs. Johnson. So I thought "Gee, here's an opportunity possibly that I could get her mind diverted away from George Hamilton's departure by having Chuck Robb enter the picture." So I went over to him and I said, "Chuck," after he had greeted me and almost saluted, I said, "Chuck, you know, I have never given you an order." And he said, "No sir, no sir." And I said, "But I'm going to give you an order now and I'm going to give you an order that's going to be unusual but I want you to obey it." And I said, "I want you, after you leave this particular social activity in the next week, I want you to give a call to Linda Bird Johnson and invite her out for a date." He said, "Sir!" I said, "You heard what I said and I'm saying this and I'm giving you an order. This is an order." Well, lo and behold, of course he did and subsequently they have become married and the story is there for from then on. It was a very nice wedding. In fact, I came back with my wife at the time from San Francisco and attended their wedding in Washington, D.C., and that was at a time when Bobby Kennedy was getting cranked up to possibly run for president. And I went over and actually had a meeting with Bobby Kennedy and I advised him strongly to run for the presidency because it was necessary that we have somebody in the concepts other than what President Johnson was doing. Anyway.

So besides your other official duties, you're also a matchmaker?

Well, that was exactly correct and the matchmaking went on because I also did matchmaking with Lucy Johnson and Pat Nugent. There was a very significant resistance for them to get married by President Johnson. I don't know why he had a problem with Pat Nugent, but he did. And his concerns I think subsequently were evidenced by Lucy divorcing Pat Nugent subsequently, and I guess getting remarried.

Yes, yes. Well, you were batting 50 percent anyway.

Yes, well, 50-50, you know. Even so that lovely Linda has stood by her man in thick or thin and right now I think that it's probably pretty well stable. But it was a little rocky here a couple years ago.

Let's see. I guess I have enough time for another issue relative to President Johnson. I was going to ask you about continuing health issues that there may have been and also is Doctor Burkley still around at this point?

Oh, yes. Yes, he was elevated to Rear Admiral by the President at that time.

Your relationship had been a little bit rocky with him.

Well, you know, it became a major problem for Doctor Burkley. I was, oh, 30 years younger than he. He was in his early 60s. And he had a characteristic, well, you heard what Mrs. Kennedy analyzed him because what would happen with Doctor Burkley would be that individuals would come into the Doctor's Office and they would have some kind of a problem . .

. . . didn't do that. I don't know why, but it's not in my characteristic if somebody had, you know, a severe sore throat I would take a culture of the throat and send it off. And I would start them on penicillin or whatever medication I chose to do at that particular point in time and then I would call them back and let them know about what the culture was and so forth. What happened was the individuals began, I think, to appreciate my approach to treating them better than the approach that Doctor Burkley was treating them. Therefore, they began to call to the Doctor's Office and ask whether I was in, and if I was in they would come down and I would see them.

Well, Doctor Burkley apparently got wind of this in some fashion and he began to pick up the telephone on occasion and answer it, you know, as the Doctor's Office. Well, this was after Janet Travell had gone. Janet Travell I think left in late '64 or around Christmas in '64. I'm not positive of that. But they moved us from the West Wing on West Executive Drive to the main area in the lower area of the White House just adjacent . . . well, it was right across from the elevator as I said, but there was not enough room. So instead of Doctor Burkley keeping me over on the West Wing and he moving into Janet Travell's office, he asked me to come along with him over there.

And they then opened up the wall into the Map Room and they made an entire corridor kind of office and my office was right underneath a magnolia tree looking out on the South Lawn where that gentlemen with the airplane almost crashed into the White House. It was right there is where my office was, and between my office and the next office over was a treatment room and then came the treatment room and then the other side of that was Doctor Burkley's office. And then out front, of course, was the reception room and we had a laboratory and so forth. But this was all . . . well, after we got over to the White House to go back, Doctor Burkley got elevated to Rear Admiral and subsequently, oh, a year or so later after that he was elevated to Vice Admiral. And he was a Vice Admiral when he retired from the Navy as a matter of fact. So he and I, well, we differed.

One of the other problems that occurred was I came into the White House having been freshly trained and I went up and I took my boards. Well, I passed my written boards, this is when there was two sections to internal medicine boards, I passed my written boards and about 60 percent of those failed their written boards at the time. And then you had to go before an oral examination of two other doctors and both of whom were professors of medicine at various teaching institutions and then they would grade you on your oral exam and 60 percent would pass that.

So a total, I guess, of 36 percent would pass both their written and oral examinations for board certification in internal medicine. George Burkley had taken his boards twice and had failed them both times. I, fortunately, took my boards in written and passed those and then after I was in the White House in '64 I went for my oral exam in New York and I passed those. So I was board certified and I think this bothered George Burkley also, so that there was just kind of a

difference in the way we approached patients, the way he approached them and the way I did, such that I think this caused a significant friction in his aspect.

The one significant area was that after President Kennedy's death, since I knew J. Willis Hearst from being in training at Bethesda when he was the Chief of Cardiology at Bethesda and knowing that he was personally involved with the Johnson family and was continuing to take care of President Johnson, I felt that it would be wise from our point of view to actually get rid of the doctors who were in the White House and have a new group of doctors come in and take care of President Johnson.

So I called Willis Hearst and he obviously remembered me very closely from my time with him at Bethesda. And I told him that I felt that we should be removed and that they should change the medical staff grouping in the White House and get a whole new group in. He said, well, he would talk it over with Doctor Cain, and Doctor Cain essentially was the, I think, superior of the two in aspects of advice to the Johnsons.

And lo and behold Jim Cain called me back and said Jim, we really don't want you and George Burkley to go away from the White House at this time. We really want you to stay, you know the job, you know what needs to be done, you know how to do it, you've been doing it, we want you to stay. So please don't leave the White House. We want you very much to stay there. And then, of course, Jim Cain in the usual politic fashion said, well, what we would like to do is eventually George Burkley will retire and we would like you to stay on and become Physician to the President. And I said no, I said that's not my desire. And he said well, please stay on. Anyway, that was how the situation occurred that then he and Willis Hearst and, of course, the Johnson family said they didn't want any change in the physician grouping that was there and the corpsmen grouping as well.

Did you recognize at that time, as perhaps Doctor Boone did many years earlier, that your career would somehow be inhibited by remaining there too long?

Yes, I very definitely did. In fact, you will hear later on in my discussion that I actually submitted my letter of transfer. I requested my transfer and as I'd said before President Johnson never allowed that to happen. He always fired people. He didn't allow them to leave him. In fact, Renee Verdon, the chef, he actually got upset with President Johnson to such a degree that he went in and he resigned his post as Head Chef at the White House.

Well, it came out in the newspaper that President Johnson had relieved him of his duties and not that Renee had left. But I had to submit my letter, oh, well, I'll go through it now. Jiggs Canada, Captain Canada and now Rear Admiral Canada, was the Deputy Surgeon General at the time of Johnson being in the White House, and he and I had become quite close because I'd been Senior Resident for him when he was Chief of Medicine at Bethesda. In fact, we named actually one of our daughters after his wife, Judith, because we were that close at Bethesda.

Well, subsequently, I got to the point where I felt that I had to leave the White House because George Burkley was becoming paranoid about my activities to a great degree. And I will tell you . . . well, there's a couple of stories I need to tell you about his gall bladder surgery. He was in . . . shall we go on now or should we stop and come back?

Well, we're just about an hour. If you like we can pick this up next time and probably finish the interview next time.

Well, there's a number of issues relative to the gall bladder surgery . . .

The surgery.
... that are quite interesting.

Well, why don't we stop it here then and we'll pick up with the gall bladder.
Okay.

Interview 5

Well, we're all set to go. I have a note here in my file that we were supposed to begin today with LBJ's gall bladder situation.

Well, let's go back just before that because there was another episode I think before he had his gall bladder that we had him in the hospital for. I think it's appropriate. There was one element that I left out, I think. When I was describing Jacqueline Kennedy's analysis of the various doctors and nurses, Nurse Chapowicki as the spy and Doctor Burkley as Communist and Eugene Cohen as the psychopath, she also indicated that Janet Travell she likened to Mrs. Nhu, N-H-U.

Wow. Oh, yes, we know which Mrs. Nhu you are talking about.

But I forgot to mention that because Jacqueline Kennedy was obviously just as bright and sharp as any individual I've ever known. Anyway, back to the particular point . . .

Did she ever give you reasons for these things or did she just classify them in those categories and that was it?

Well, from my personal point of view I can see them. I can see why she would classify them as that. I can see why she would classify Janet Travell as Mrs. Nhu because she was always conniving, and Doctor Travell was always conniving and making different things to attempt to arrange different things and going through the Surgeon General of the Air Force and then the Surgeon General of the Army trying to get rid of George Burkley. It was just a constant turmoil as far as she was concerned.

Then, as far as Doctor Burkley, Doctor Burkley unfortunately gave the impression by his attitude towards patients and other individuals that he wasn't going to go ahead and give them any medication. And he wasn't going to go ahead and give them any advice because they weren't in the Navy and therefore they didn't deserve anything except just his presence. It just was a negative situation, so therefore the attitude of being Communistic trained and so forth would hold.

Now I don't know the psychopathic issue relative to Doctor Eugene Cohen because that goes all the way back to when JFK obviously had his surgery in New York for his back problem and she must have gotten the impression from him at that time for some reason. I don't know. And then as far as Betty Chapowicki being the active duty Navy Lieutenant Senior Grade Nurse in the White House, Betty Chapowicki shuffled between Doctor Travell's office and our office. And therefore it was easy to go ahead and classify her as "The Spy" because she would see what was going on in Travell's office and apparently Mrs. Kennedy thought that she would go ahead and tell that to myself or Doctor Burkley, you know, in the other office.

Yes.

So those were the analyses that came about.

Okay.

Anyway, I don't think we covered this and if we did, stop me.

Okay.

President Johnson became ill with a fever, a heavy cough and hoarseness and at that time we felt it was best that he would be controlled better in the hospital. So essentially what we did was we admitted him to Bethesda Naval Hospital and put him up on the 17th floor where we could control everything and there was nobody else on the 17th floor.

Was the 17th floor fitted out at that time as the Presidential area?

No, it was not. That was the area where Admiral Leahy had originally lived. I think he was the four-star Admiral during World War II.

Right, he was FDR's aide I believe.

Exactly. Exactly that. And as he grew older and older they actually had him stay on Tower 17 where he actually lived on Tower 17 for the last years of his life. But that particular area was for the VIP Suite. We had made the Presidential Suite down on the second floor above the Tissue Bank in the front wing of Bethesda after, oh, I would say, well probably in 1964. We began that whole process and then had it finished and Doctor Burkley worked with the Surgeon General and the Secretary of the Navy to get it done. And they got it all done and then subsequently President Johnson went in there for his gall bladder problems. That was the suite, I presume it's still there. I'm not sure.

But we admitted him to Tower 17 at the time and then we put a moist air humidifier in his room and we started him on Tesalon and gave him some acromycin and Cepacol and Robitussin. Those were the usual medications at the time, and he just had a bronchitis really is all it was and a bit of a hoarseness. At that time Liz Carpenter, who was then the Press Secretary for Mrs. Johnson, also had a friend in New York by the name of Doctor James Gould, G-O-U-L-D. And she had him come down from New York because he was great at so-called treating voices to get them back in order very quickly. He was an ENT specialist and he was taken in and he concurred with exactly what we were doing. The interesting thing was that Doctor Gould at that time obviously talked with LBJ about a few things. And one of the things he talked with him about was getting contact lenses. And the issue was that we had actually determined that President Johnson probably would do better with tri-focal lenses because he had some problems seeing at distances, intermediate, as well as close. And Doctor Gould suggested that he get weighted, the contact lenses that would be weighted. Such that when they were put in the eye they would, by gravity, occupy a certain area that he could see close by, looking through the bottom of the contacts and distance by looking through the top of the contacts and intermediate was, of course, interspersed. That is a story I'll go into a little bit later.

But while we were in the hospital President Johnson was doing fairly well; however, the first night when he was there he insisted to Doctor Burkley and Doctor Gould and I that he wasn't getting better fast enough and what he needed to have was a mustard plaster. So at two

o'clock in the morning we sent two Corpsmen out to scrounge in Bethesda and its environs a drugstore that had mustard plaster. And they got one and brought it back and it was duly heated, moistened, et cetera and placed on President Johnson's chest. He did this primarily because this is how his mother used to treat his colds, so therefore he felt that was the thing that was going to do him the best approach. I don't think the Press ever got a smell of it anytime. [laughter] Anyway, he resolved that issue pretty quickly and is back out of the hospital. However, the issue of the contact lenses hung on and he got contacts. I don't know where he got them from or who got them for him, but I presume Doctor Gould had made an arrangement in some fashion for him to get the contact lenses. Well, unfortunately, President Johnson was unable or didn't choose to put the contact lenses in by himself and each time he had to have his contacts or he wanted his contacts in, either Doctor Burkley or I would have to put them in. And then we would also, after he had finished with his appearance before TV or whatever, we would have to take them out as well. And we had a little small, rubber, elongated suction element, almost like you see on the end of an eyedropper only it was longer and more pliable. And all we would do is apply the suction and then we could take off the contact lenses or we would put the contact lens on and you could pop it into his eye very easily. We would do this in the little side room that is now I guess known as Monica Lewinsky's Room. [laughter] And that went fairly well for awhile, but we had discouraged him, both Doctor Burkley and I had discouraged him from wearing the contact lenses because we knew there were problems with them. And that they would not really benefit him in case one of them turned up and went sideways and got stuck on his cornea in a fashion where the contact lens was perpendicular to where it should be.

One night I had to put his contacts in around six thirty or thereabouts, and I put them in the little room and as usual I would wait in the room until he came back so I would take them out. And this particular night he came back into the room and he cussed me out a blue streak for putting his contacts in wrong! And obviously what had happened is what Doctor Burkley and I had advised him about, namely that the contacts rotate on the surface of the cornea and that they might not be exactly correct by virtue of gravity and in the right position.

Well, what had happened with him was obvious. One of the contacts had turned over upside down, and he was seeing distances from his one eye, while he was seeing nearsighted from the other eye because the contact was upside down.

Was he giving a speech at the time?

Yes, he went in front of the television cameras.

Oh boy!

But, you know, one of the things that you can do with that is you can suppress your vision of course and read the teleprompter and that's what he was doing at the time as well. He always had the teleprompter there and they had it in large enough scroll that he wouldn't even need glasses if he didn't want them to.

Yes.

So that's the story of the contact lenses and the other issue. Well, I guess not everybody can say they've been cussed out by LBJ, although I imagine there are a bunch of folks who have been.

I think there's a rather broad fraternity and sorority that occupies that position, believe me. [laughter] I'm sure of it as a matter of fact. But anyway, I told him why the situation occurred at that time and that this was what we were concerned about happening before and why we discouraged him from using contacts. Do you know that he never wore them subsequently?

I bet not.

Nope, he never put them in again or I never had to bother with them again. But I was reading . . . my wife kept a kind of an intermittent diary during the period of time that I was in the White House because I had indicated that I wouldn't write anything down. But whenever I would come home I would describe things to her and we had all kinds of, you know, activities in the White House with receptions and the whole bit and she would write it down.

I was just going through some of the notes that she had made over the period of '63 to '66 when I was there and I was just trying to prepare a little bit for our discussion. However, let's go to the gall bladder because that's an interesting story as well. We knew that President Johnson had a stone, ureteral stone, lodged in his right ureter below the kidney. It had been there for years and it was easily seen on x-ray and it had not obstructed the right ureter at all and therefore was not really any problem.

But he was down in Texas and I believe that it was the latter part of August or the first of September. I'm pretty sure it was about that time. Anyway, I got a call early in the morning in the White House. George Burkley had gone down to Texas with him. We alternated trips with the President when he would go to Texas, one of us would go down, or when he would go to Camp David, of course, one of us could go with him or what not. And George was down there at the time and he called me early on this one morning.

And this was a little bit unusual because he usually didn't call back, but he wanted to talk with me and we talked about it. And what had happened was he had been called I guess around two-thirty or three o'clock in the morning by the President.

And we always stayed in the guesthouse at the LBJ ranch, and the guesthouse is only, I would say, maybe a hundred yards from the main house. And he went up at the time and the President then advised him that he had some belly trouble and he was not feeling very well and felt a little nauseated. So they took his temperature and George Burkley called the Corpsman who was with him at the time and it was Tom Mills as a matter of fact, the same individual that I spoke about with the bent bullet problem.

We talked to him. We interviewed him last week.

Oh, good for you.

Yes, he was a little bit reticent. He didn't give us very much detail. Whenever we got on the subjects that we wanted to talk about, he said I don't really want to talk about that.

I swear to God, I don't know why these people are so crazy in that situation. He said that apparently there have been other people who have called him over the years, you know, trying to get information out of him and he won't talk to them. I tried to convince him that we were fairly legitimate and worked for the Surgeon General. But he still was very reticent about talking about that stuff.

Well, these people sometimes are not very astute about historical issues in my opinion. And Tom was kind of that sort of an individual. He was rather a reticent individual in talking anyway when he was a Corpsman, when he was a Chief Corpsman anyway.

Right.

But anyway, Tom Mills had gone up with George Burkley and examined the President and at that time George Burkley got a urinalysis on him and Tom went and did the urine evaluation and there was no red blood cells in it and no white blood cells in it, but he did have a temperature of about 101 and he had some tenderness in his abdomen, not localized, either area, but he was ill. Well, what they did was they didn't have an enema set-up for him available, but they did have a gastric lavage tube. They used a gastric lavage tube and believe it or not a funnel and gave the President an enema at about three or three-thirty in the morning.

This was kind of how George Burkley went about things and the enema made the President feel much better, just like the mustard plaster obviously must have made him feel better. But the results of that were that he still had some abdominal discomfort and when George called me and told me what had gone on and what he had done. His comment to me was that the President had "catfish poisoning." And I said, "Catfish poisoning? What is that George?" "Well," he said, "He was over at Lake LBJ and running around in the motorboat and afterwards they had a big catfish fry and he ate too much catfish that night, and so therefore he had catfish poisoning." And I said "Well, gee, I don't think that that's really what we should consider because he's got a temperature elevation. He's got normal urine, that's fine. And he's got some tenderness in his abdomen," and I said, "George you've really got to think about this. Here's a man who has had coronary artery disease, he's got atherosclerosis, I think you probably ought to be cognizant of the fact that he perhaps has a gall stone." And George said, "Oh, no, I really don't think so." I said, "Well, we ought to be keeping that in our mind anyway."

Well, the following, let's see, that was Sunday night, so that was Monday and Monday they were coming back to D.C. So they were going to be back in the White House on that Monday evening. J. Willis Hurst who had treated him at Bethesda as the Chief of Cardiology had gotten out of the Navy and had gone into academic medicine and became the Professor and Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at Emory Medical School.

He had kept his associations with the Johnson family, particularly Mrs. Johnson and the President over the years subsequently, and had advised the President on what to do when he became Senate Majority Leader and when he became Vice President and so forth. And had remained a relatively close advisor as far as his cardiac status was concerned. In fact, he took care of them when President Johnson left the Presidency and went back to Texas, Willis took care of him while he was in Texas and when he expired of his coronary problem there.

But J. Willis was an unusual individual. Is, I guess you would say. He has a very, very fine book called *The Heart* which is a compendium of knowledge relative to the heart that he published way back when and it is probably one of the stellar books that one can use as a reference. Anyway, he's a very bright, very capable individual, but he was also a self-promoter and had kept up with the Johnsons so that every time that he . . . well, he also was on the National Institutes of Health Cardiac Advisory Committee.

And they would have meetings every three to four, five months or thereabouts. And each time he would come up to D.C. he would see fit to call the Johnsons and let them know that he was going to be in Washington to attend the meeting at the National Institutes of Health. And, of

course, Mrs. Johnson, being the marvelous lady that she always is, invited him to stay at the White House during that time.

Well, J. Willis is kind of a self-promoter as well, and he would stay on the third floor. And I heard from the ushers, that each time he came into the White House the following morning there would be probably seven to ten letters written on White House stationery that would be sent out of the White House to various areas of the country, obviously from his point of view impacting some of the people that he knew. Anyway, he was going to be there that night when the President and the entourage returned to the White House and I stayed deliberately that evening to wait for the President to come in because I wanted to talk to George Burkley as well. But Willis was also there and so we sat in the Doctor's Offices awaiting them to arrive and they arrived around I guess seven-thirty in the evening.

And Willis and I had talked and I had told Willis that I felt that he needed to have a gall bladder series very significantly and Willis said, "Well, you know, I don't know. He's got this kidney stone that's hung up in the ureter." He said, "It might be that kidney stone." And I said, "Well, I would think that that's pretty well ruled out by virtue of the normal urinalysis that George had done down in Texas." And he said, "Well, that's true, but if the kidney stone had blocked off the ureter and he'd gotten infection behind it, then he could have no cells in his urine." I said, "Yes, but if he had an infection behind a blocked ureter his temperature wouldn't be 100 or 101, it would be a 105 or 106."

Well, wouldn't you see that in the blood work if there was any blood work done?

You might not. I mean you could, of course, if the white blood count was up and there was a left shift you would have obviously been able to determine that. But down in Texas I don't think they had the opportunity of doing a white blood count at that time. In fact, I know they didn't because we had that done the following day and it was slightly elevated. But Willis, of course, was holding to the concept that it was the ureteral stone.

Anyway, the President came in with his entourage. He went upstairs and said he was going to call down to Doctor Burkley and I after he got upstairs. And he knew that Willis was there as well because Mrs. Johnson had told him that he was going to be there and going to be attending a meeting the following day. So the three of us got into a discussion waiting for the President to call us.

Well, he was getting ready to lie down in bed I'm pretty sure. And so we talked about it a little bit and then the telephone rang in the outer office. And as Doctor Burkley was so wont to do in that particular period of our interrelationship, he ran out of his office to answer the telephone before the Corpsman could even get to it. And he answered the telephone.

Well, while he was out there after hearing how and the description and whatnot that we had discussed more so from George Burkley while the three of us were in his office, I walked over to Willis Hurst. And as an impertinent young whippersnapper I stuck my finger under his nose and I said, "Willis Hurst, if the President doesn't get a gall bladder series out of this I'm going to hold you personally responsible." And now this is to the Chairman of the Department of Medicine at a major medical school in Georgia. But I was very, very, very strong in my opinion on that and I obviously made my point. We went upstairs, evaluated the President and, of course, we pushed on his belly and found a little tenderness there but not localized and evaluated him a little bit closer. After we had done that and listened to his abdomen and talked to him a little bit, he was not having any real problems. Willis Hurst was at the foot of the bed

and he looked at the President and he said, "Well, you know, you know Mr. President, he said, I think we probably ought to have a gall bladder series."

What had aroused your suspicions from the beginning that it may have been gall bladder?

Well, it was his dietary indiscretions also. I mean he ate the wrong things. President Johnson didn't have a very good dietary approach, he didn't eat low-fat diets or anything like that, he just did what he wanted to do. That's basically it. My particular approach on this was here's a man who's got these particular risk factors, all of them you could put in a row and they lead up to a particular consideration that, hey, he probably has gall bladder disease. Well, he did. And we then got the x-ray and the x-ray then showed this large stone in the gall bladder and then we had scheduled him for surgery. And, of course, this was the first of September and by the, oh gosh, I don't know, first week in October is when we scheduled the surgery. And we had . . .

This is '63?

This is '64 now?

Yes.

Okay. And at that particular time we had a whole team come in because Jim Cain then became very prominent in the whole situation and he wanted to have his surgeon from Mayo Clinic do the surgery with the assistant from Mayo doing the surgery and they would do it in Bethesda, which is what we did do. And we had had the Presidential Suite already made up and prepared earlier in the summer and everything worked out fine. And Doctor George Hallenbeck, he was the Chief Surgeon, and then Don McIlrath, Doctor Don McIlrath, was the Assistant Surgeon.

They brought an anesthesiologist, unfortunately I've forgotten his name. I know that there was a Commander by the name of Van Houghton who was the back-up anesthesiologist from Bethesda and, let's see, Osborne, I think he was Captain Osborne at the time, was the Chief of Surgery at Bethesda, he was the back-up surgeon behind George Hallenbeck. Anyway, we had it all doubled up so that there were the people from Mayo that were the primary individuals and the secondary individuals were the individuals who were at Bethesda.

On the induction of President Johnson he went into supraventricular tachycardia as Willis Hurst and I were actually monitoring his EKG.

What were you using for anesthesia?

I don't know, I don't know. Obviously, there was probably . . . it was probably pentothal and I had no idea what else they used I'm sure. But he had a supraventricular tach and at that time Willis Hurst said give him a half a milligram of atropine and the atropine just cleared him out very nicely, slowed him down, everything went fine and there was no more complications after that. And we were out of the surgery . . . we actually started the surgery at seven o'clock in the morning. Everybody had been told in the country that the President was going to go to surgery at eight-thirty in the morning and by eight-thirty we had him already out of the operating room and back in the Presidential Suite so he was already back out of anesthesia at that time.

Of interest at that time was that he had turned over the Office of the Presidency to Vice President Humphrey. This has to do with the 25th Amendment. Which is I think it's the third section in the 25th Amendment, now relates to this whole process of the President being able to

turn over the duty and the powers of the Office of Presidency while it's known that he's going to be incapacitated. President Johnson did that at the time and then took it back after he was totally alert and aware of everything that was going on.

He had a very, I would have to say, unremarkable recovery and his rehabilitation just went beautifully. No problems respiratory-wise or otherwise and he gradually moved about. I've got a whole series of pictures that Yoichi Okomoto, who was the Chief Photographer in the White House, gave it to me essentially as a whole album of pictures that I know that are in the Johnson Library. But they also show some of me and, you know, in the garb of the time with all the operating clothes on and whatnot.

And it was a very interesting time, of course. The President had a little bit of irritation because of the endotracheal tube and we had to have an ENT person evaluate him afterwards, Winn Taylor, who was a captain at the time was Head of ENT there. He came up and then there was another . . . let's see, there was another individual. I've forgotten his name. But the President did extremely well through this whole process, but there was an interesting commentary that occurred that explains something about how astute President Johnson was and I think it merits underlining.

During this period of maybe five or six days following the operation, of course you can imagine what the Press was. I mean it was all over the place, they were all over everybody trying to get information. The time occurred that we had a number of letters that came to George Burkley and me in the White House and they were from physicians. Maybe there were from I would say 10 to 12 to 14 letters. These letters essentially were accusing us of covering up what President Johnson had that we were covering up that he had had some type of abdominal cancer that we had operated on and we weren't telling the public the correct story or whatever.

And, you know, what can you say? You can go ahead and write them back and say that the President had a gall bladder removed and we took out the kidney stone at the same time. We had Ormond Culp, C-U-L-P, who was the Head of Urology at Mayo came in and went to the ureter and removed the impacted ureteral stone so we wouldn't have any more problem with that subsequently.

But the gall bladder came out, not just the stone?

Yes. No, the gall bladder came out and the ureteral stone came out also and, of course, the gall bladder had the big stone in it and there's a story behind that one too. Let me continue on this particular line of where we were being accused of hiding what the President had. There was an occasion subsequent to his beginning to move about and walk around. He was able to get up and walk out of the wing of the Bethesda Hospital and he went up to I believe it was the Third Green that's right across the road there, well it was at that time, and they had set up some deck chairs out there. And he was going to hold his first Press conference with everybody being out there. And this was when he came out and he sat down in the chair. I was sitting right next to him and George was sitting on the other side of him. And this was when he was shown on television I believe and at that time we had told the President that we were getting these letters about the probability that he was operated on for cancer.

But I'm pretty sure that, maybe you will remember or maybe you won't remember the fact that when he was asked about his getting surgery he pulled up his right side of his upper pajama top.

Right.

And you could see the big scar that he had in the upper right quadrant just underneath his rib cage and even the draining site was there.

Oh, that was the front page as I remember.

That's right, exactly. Do you know we never got another letter from any of the doctors after that. [laughter] That was such a classic sub-costal incision for gall bladder that that satisfied everybody else that he had had gall bladder surgery.

That's great. What a story.

Well, it really was and, of course, I think President Johnson was alert enough and smart enough to know that if he did this that would calm the whole situation down.

It wasn't, as I recall, it wasn't seen that way.

No.

It was seen as a typical LBJ kind of a thing that he would do.

Yes, picking up the dogs by the ears kind of thing.

Right, exactly. I was thinking about the beagle.

Yes.

The same thing.

Yes, it was, you know, kind of a gauche, farmer kind of approach to life.

Right, but he had a motive for that.

People don't know that, but I'll tell you, I thought that was the most brilliant move that he's done in a long while. Anyway, he recovered very nicely, but George Burkley got the stone, the gall bladder stone. There was only one stone, but he had chronic gall bladder disease. There's no question about it. The gall bladder was inflamed chronically and it had to come out. I'm glad we got it when we did.

I just think in terms of his eating habits and that gall bladder, he must have been suffering awhile with that thing.

He probably did. The gallstone was, oh, I would say a centimeter and a half in diameter. It was a big one.

Wow.

And I have a picture of it that Yoichi took in my album. But the significant part about this was that George Burkley took the stone, it was given to him, and he took the stone and gave it to the Commanding Officer of the Dental Corps at Bethesda, the Dental Department. He wanted them to go ahead and put it into methacrylate, in others words to put it into a block of methacrylate and then was going to go ahead and give it to the President as a paperweight, right. Well, he gave it to the individuals in the dental department and when they put it in the methacrylate apparently the composition or whatever how they had to do the methacrylate, when

they put it in the stone exploded and it totally, totally disappeared. I mean it just . . . it actually exploded so there was no evidentiary aspect of it and I don't still know what type of a stone it was. I do have the picture of it though. Anyway, he did recuperate rather nicely from that and really we had no other real problems with him, you know, during the course of my being there.

You had mentioned earlier the fact that he was in a high risk category for his arterial . . . you said there was arterial disease, at least you had noticed that or someone had noticed that somewhere.

Yes. Well, he had had his coronary artery occluded. He had a severe myocardial infarction I guess it was in '56, '55? '56? Something along that line.

Right.

I know that he had severe coronary and that was when J. Willis Hurst took care of him at Bethesda.

And he was also at that time, I think, a chronic smoker, was he not?

That's correct. Not only was he a chronic smoker but he unfortunately, and I think I mentioned this, he smoked actually in the oxygen tent I was told by one of the Corpsmen.

Wow.

And he was annoyed because the cigarette burned so fast in the oxygen tent.

[laughter] Oh, gee.

But that's another piece unbelievable as it may be.

What a piece of work that man was.

He was quite an individual, I can tell you that. There's no question about it. He had remarkable, remarkable abilities of different nature than one is usually exposed to. But he really did quite a job. But I did, I told you about the Chuck Robb issue.

Yes.

And I also was involved with Luci and Pat Nugent. They were wanting to get married very desperately and Dad, President Johnson, did not want them to get married. He did not necessarily approve of the choice, but we talked for a long time down at the ranch between the two of them, Luci and Pat. And I kind of counseled them as what to do and things worked out very nicely for them and they were married and obviously we attended the weddings and whatnot which were quite spectacular as far as the White House is concerned.

A wedding in the White House is really a remarkable occurrence. President Johnson enjoyed taking his guests from overseas, whether they were prime ministers or presidents or kings or whatever, visiting him on the ranch, he would enjoy taking them out and having them hunt deer. They had a lot of deer on his ranch and he loved deer sausage as well, and they would make deer sausage out of the deer and he would have it for morning breakfast.

He had a cousin, Oriole Bailey, who lived I would say within 200 yards of his house and she was a cousin, first cousin I think it was, and she was very, very hard of hearing. In fact, the

Secret Service had to put a special bell on the telephone so that when the President would call her from the ranch then she could hear it. She had some unusual characteristics. She had empty bottles and jars all over the floor of her . . . it was practically only a two-room shack really and the President wanted to get her out of there because she owned 25 acres immediately adjacent to his ranch and he could not convince her to sell it.

He finally did eventually convince her to get rid of it and what he was going to do, and he did, he built an entirely new, beautiful home for her right in the same place. But I can remember visiting Cousin Oriole every time I went down because the President would always ask me to go down and make sure I checked in on her and how things would go with her and then making sure that she was in good health. Armadillos had dug underneath her house at the time, that was the old house, and she actually had armadillos living underneath her home. When he built the new one the old one came down and the new one looked a whole lot better I'm sure.

But he also would take, when he was down there, he would like to drive his own convertible and he would drive out onto the landing strip of the airport that was right there, you know, on his property. This is where he usually would land. Well, he had . . . there were different planes. He would use the helicopter to come over from the Air Force base there and would land on his field.

But on occasions there was also a King Air or . . . I think it was called a King Air or Queen Air, one of the two, he also had that as a plane when he would bounce around in Texas or he would go making a political trip to an area involved in Texas. For a short trip, it was a two-engine jet and it was a delightful plane to be in because there were only about 11 seats in it and they would land off and on at the LBJ ranch.

And he had an Air Force pilot?

Oh, yes. Yes, there were Air Force pilots. Of course, on Air Force One there was a Lieutenant Colonel James Cross I think it was, James U. Cross, James Underwood Cross, was his number one pilot before . . . well, when he was Vice President he was in that situation. And then when he became President, Jim Cross also became his number one pilot. Well, Jim Cross went from a Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel to Brigadier General to Lieutenant General by the time Johnson was out of office.

I guess he liked the guy.

He liked him. You better believe it. And not only that, but Jim Cross did a heck of a job of obviously flying him in here and there every place. He was a very, very good pilot. While I was there over Thanksgiving I just had seen some pictures that I've got, I would put on a Thanksgiving dinner for all the people who were there, all the Secret Service, the Army people who took care of the cars, the fleet of cars that we had.

This is in Texas?

Yes, this is in Texas at the guest house. And at the guesthouse I would have two Air Force Sergeants who took care of me at the guest house. They would make the beds, change the beds, you know, and make all my food and feed me and water me and everything. They had waited on me hand and foot, really. They were just obviously delightful. It was pretty casual sort of a life at the time, but it certainly took a lot of pressure off of other things. Down there President Johnson would go to church and he would usually drive his own car when he would go

to church and then we would have a back-up car which would be the Secret Service and I would go in the Secret Service car with my bags. I carried two bags generally at that time. One primarily was an oxygen and IV-containing bag and the other bag had all kinds of . . . it was a pharmacy really, truly.

It was a total pharmacy. And in that also I had a surgical kit that if there was an incision or I needed to make an incision or there was a wound I could go ahead and take care of it by having this sterile kit. I still have that briefcase as a matter of fact that I used, and in there I still have a pair of President Johnson's contact lenses. [laughter]

There's a historic item right there.

I've got a number of them. Geez, I've had a problem because I don't know how to get these things evaluated. I've got a cigar case from JFK that was given to me by Mugsy O'Leary who was his, I'd guess you'd call him a bag man. He carried around maybe 100,000 to 150,000 dollars cash with him and Mugsy was about 62 or 63 years of age and he was from Somerville, Mass., and was obviously an old, old Kennedy family friend. And he was taken into the Secret Service to go ahead and give him a position, let's put it that way. Well, Mugsy was the individual who would carry the money that was probably Democratic Party money that President Kennedy would perhaps dole out on some of his political trips and Mugsy was a very close friend, obviously, of President Kennedy. He was a delightful Irish gentleman, let's put it that way. And Mugsy, after President Kennedy's death, came to me and he said Doctor, he said, I think you would enjoy this. He said I used to carry this for the President when we were going on trips. And he gave me President Kennedy's cigar carrying case.

Without the money in it?

Well, there was no money in it, but there is still now a cigar that has the wrapper on it that says President John Kennedy on the wrapper.

Wow.

He had his own, so I still have that. I've got a pair of President Kennedy's sunglasses. There's things that I've got that I don't know what to do with or how to handle it. Anyway, I guess, well I attended both Luci's and Lynda's weddings. Linda almost fainted and I had to . . . I still carry, as a matter of fact, ampules of ammonia whenever I go to a wedding. Because when we went to Lynda's wedding she almost fainted and I had to pass the ammonia capsule to one of the Secret Service who went up behind the altar, gave it to one of the acolytes who was helping. And they got it out to Lynda and she was able to go ahead and get herself . . . they don't eat breakfast, these young ladies, whenever they're getting married, don't eat breakfast and they always have this hypoglycemic problem usually occurs and I've seen it happen a number of times.

But she had, it happen to her at The National Cathedral, God bless her. But Mrs. Johnson, I haven't even mentioned her hardly, but she was just a delightful person and as I said before I would be the fourth for bridge with she and her friends on occasion. Lynda and Chuck Robb also enjoyed playing bridge and my wife and I, Bettylu, and I were invited to the White House a number of times and we would come down and we would play bridge at the other end of the family quarters. It was down on the other side of the Lincoln Bedroom really, in the end

room down there. It was lots of fun because the ushers would always make popcorn and we would have a fire in the fireplace. It was really quite an experience; that's all I can say.

Were there other issues connected with LBJ's health besides the gall bladder while you were still there? Any manifestations of his heart?

Not a single problem with his heart. Not one. We took his blood pressure and pulse, I think we monitored him more closely than anything else, three times a week at least we would evaluate him. And we kept a very, very close tab on his weight and Zephyr, I think her name was Zephyr Wright, was the black cook that they had from the ranch and would come up and did prepare a considerable amount of food and whatnot in the White House for the Johnsons. And Zephyr's husband actually used to be LBJ's chauffeur before that, so they were kind of members of the family. And we talked with her quite a bit about trying to modify his dietary intake because, goodness, well '55, '64, that was almost ten years after his severe coronary that he had and he was doing very well with that.

President Johnson was terribly concerned that he was not going to make the age of 60 because none of the male members of his family lived past the age of 60 and he was pretty well convinced that he was not going to make it past that. I think this was something that impacted him in turning down the run for the Presidency. Not only was Vietnam a major problem for him, but I think that he was concerned that he might not make it through another four years in office because he would turn 60 during that period of time. He was very concerned about that and had expressed it to us too.

And yet he didn't modify his lifestyle or his eating habits?

No.

And the smoking, was that still going on?

No, no, no, he did not smoke. He did start smoking again when he was out of office and he was back down on the ranch. I think he began to smoke again, at least I've heard that. I had nothing to do with him subsequent to my departure from the White House. But, well I have to tell you that story too because I got to the point where I was terribly concerned about the relationship that I had with George Burkley. George Burkley became more and more concerned and paranoid about my position and during the last year that I was there he got another doctor from Bethesda by the name of Lay Fox, and Lay Fox is, as I think I mentioned to you before, was a cardiologist. He was the Chief of Cardiology at Bethesda and George asked him to come down and become the third doctor in the White House and he would then go on trips as well late in the course of my being there.

Well, when he came into the White House it became much easier from my point of view to take a look at the issue of getting out of the White House. I was still a pretty young guy at the time, you know. And having been jumped from Lieutenant Commander to Captain, and I knew I was going to go back to Commander after I left the White House or if I had been chosen from below the zone as I fortunately was subsequently for Captain, I would be Captain after I left. But Lay Fox came in and he was with us for the last few months that I had stayed at the White House so that he filled in the situation. And then subsequent to my departure they began to take a look at who else could come in and they got Bill Lukash. I think you probably remember him.

Yes, yes I do.

Oh, Bill Voss, I beg your pardon.

Bill Voss?

Bill Voss.

Right, Lukash came later.

Lukash came later, right, right. Lukash was a gastroenterologist in Bethesda that I dealt with there. But Bill Voss was the one that came in subsequently. But I got up so tight that I went over and saw my good friend then Admiral Canada. He had been my Chief of Medicine at Bethesda when I was going through my residency training and he and I had become very close. And I wanted to get out of the White House desperately so I went over and I saw him and I indicated to him that I wanted to leave the White House and that I needed to have somebody on the inside of BUMED who would approve the situation. He and Bob Brown, Vice Admiral Brown who was then Surgeon General, Bob Brown had been the Chief of Surgery at Bethesda when I was in my training programs at Bethesda as well.

So I knew them both, but I knew Jiggs Canada very, very well because I had worked with him for three years during my residency training there. So I went over and I saw Admiral Canada. In fact, we were so close to the Canadas that his wife, Judy, we named our second youngest daughter after her as an honor to him.

Anyway, I went over and I saw him and I spoke to him and I said that I needed to leave the White House and that I needed to get back to academic medicine and I wanted to leave. And he said, "Well, Jim, we don't want you to leave." And I said, "Well, I understand that." And he said, "Listen, you just stay there, and I'll get you the Legion of Merit." And I said, "Well, that doesn't mean that much to me, I'm sorry sir." And he said, "Well, we do really want you to stay." And I said, "Admiral, I have two choices, one I leave the White House or I leave the Navy, and if I have to I will leave the Navy and then I will leave the White House." And he said, "I understand," and he subsequently actually ran interference for me with Bob Brown I'm sure and I put my letter in to request transfer. No one ever left LBJ. That was another issue.

You had mentioned that the other day, that he had to dismiss you.

Yes, well he dismissed Renee Verdon, the outstanding chef, but I also took care of Walter Jenkins who had hypertension and I was controlling his blood pressure while he was in the White House and at the time . . . well, Walter Jenkins was picked up in Washington, D.C. for soliciting.

Right, in a men's room or something.

In a men's room, right.

On Capitol Hill I think it was or something, yes.

Yes, someplace and since I was his doctor essentially in the White House I was in talking with the FBI and the CIA in the back office area on the other side of Bill Moyer's area and at the time I was talking to them I got a telephone call from home. My little five year-old girl was playing in a park area adjacent to our house in Silver Spring and a wind came by and blew over a tree and struck her on top of the head. And that was when they were calling me and wondering

what to do and they took her to Bethesda and took her to neurosurgery, operated and she died within four hours.

Oh, God.

But I was testifying before these two gentlemen about what I knew about Walter Jenkins and how he had approached different aspects at that particular moment. I can remember that very vividly. So that occurred while we were in the White House, the loss of our five year-old. And the Johnsons were just delightful, I mean just really wonderful people all the way along. The President was difficult, but Mrs. Johnson handled him, I think, beautifully all the time. The girls were a little upset by him periodically, but that was to be understood as well. He was a very personable individual. He, from my point of view, was very congenial with me, he was very attentive to my wife when we were . . . we had a lot of White House receptions that we were at and a lot of activities with the family. In fact, the girls, Lynda and Luci, practically fought over the children, my children, when I brought them to the White House because they took them to the . . . or she took them to the pool and they swam in the pool that now has been totally taken away.

I think the Press area was built right on top of where the pool was.

That's exactly right. That's correct, right. And with the children I had five children there when I was in the White House. On July 4th we would go up to the third floor and Luci and Lynda had a special room on the third floor in which we could look out of. And we could just watch the fireworks next to the Washington Monument or see the Washington Monument and watch the fireworks. And, of course, they had soft drinks and snacky food and they were really just delightful children. They were mature, young adults at the time. Really very, very nice. And they have not changed, fortunately.

So what was leaving the White House like then? You got your orders I assume and you . . .?

I got my orders.

Yes, what was the President's reaction when you told him you were going?

I didn't tell him.

Oh, good move.

I didn't tell him. I submitted my request through George Burkley. And George Burkley then sent, of course, a memorandum to the President, stating that he did not want me to leave but at the same time it was not unusual for junior officers to spend only two years in a particular billet. And he would think that this was not a bad move from my personal point of view and that since he had Lay Fox there and that was not a real particular problem. The lovely thing that occurred was subsequently I was given the copy of a letter that Mrs. Johnson got, and Mrs. Johnson wrote on the bottom of her flimsy copy that was sent over to the President it was to LBJ and it was from CTJ. You know who CTJ is?

No.

Claudia Taylor Johnson. They call her Ladybird, but her name was Claudia Taylor Johnson.

Oh, yes, that's right. Her real name, yes.

Yes, CTJ. So she would sign her notes to the President as CTJ. And I have that particular letter or that missive that was sent. She was given a carbon copy of course of the note that George Burkley sent to the President and this particular flimsy copy has her handwritten material on it. And it was to LBJ and she said in her note at the bottom left hand corner, "I feel terrible. I'm so fond of him and I will miss him sorely. I could weep." And she signed it CTJ.

Wow.

I've got that obviously in a very safe place.

Well, I would imagine.

Well, it was quite a lovely compliment and she always was a lovely person as I say. She took care of a lot of different things and did a grand job with her husband and her family. Very, very beautiful woman. Still is.

Yes. Still going strong.

No, she's got problems.

Does she?

Her eyesight has practically gone as I understand it and she has very, very difficult hearing. So she's not quite as good as she would like to be I'm sure.

Yes. Where did you go after that, after the White House?

After the White House, I went to . . . well, first of all they gave me my choice, anyplace I wanted to go they said you can go. So I went to Oakland Naval Hospital and I was Assistant Chief of Medicine there and Director of their Intern Program and I stayed there for three years. And then during that time we had another child, so we had number six then, and then I went back and they asked if I would take the Chief of Medicine's job at Chelsea Naval Hospital, so I went to Chelsea Naval Hospital in 1969.

Unfortunately, my wife had been diagnosed with cancer of the breast at Oakland Naval Hospital and they had done all kinds of surgery. They did a radical mastectomy, did oophorectomy and had treated her with radiation, all to no avail. Being 39 at the time, she didn't last but another year and I got to Chelsea and she began to fail pretty severely. Chelsea, I think we got there in September of '69 and she died in October of '69. And that left me with six little ones and I had to have a housekeeper and whatnot and we did the best we could and I fortunately met the following spring a lovely woman to whom I'm now married. She was a speech pathologist at the time in training at the Naval Hospital and we got married the following year and then raised the rest of the six children and we had two additional ones between the two of us. So I stayed at Chelsea from '69 to '74 and in '73 President Nixon didn't particularly appreciate Massachusetts not voting for him in the election. In fact, it was the only state he could not carry.

So that was it for Chelsea.

That was it for Chelsea.

Yes.

And the Charleston Navy Shipyard also left and on the Cape, Otis Air Force base left and I think, they kept it open for awhile, Westover Air Base in Western Mass. they kept open and they kept open the Naval base in South Weymouth, the Naval Air Station, I'm sorry. And they moved the district one, they moved it to another area. But when that happened, you know, we had just had a revamping of the Naval Hospital and had just put in a new intensive care unit and the intensive care unit had three cardiac monitoring beds and we had two beds for renal dialysis. This was just put in, I would say five months completed, before they pulled the hospital. And at that time I was really upset about this. I had 18 and a half years in service at the time and this was so silly. I had had going through my program at the time, I got there '69 to '74, five years, I had probably 18 residents that had gone through during that time. And during that period I had 17 of them had passed their written boards. In other words, it was an outstanding training hospital because I could tap anything in Boston, anyplace, I could send them over for a month to the Emergency Room at Boston University and, my God, they would be able to see everything in one month in the Emergency Room. Or I could send them to a Cardiology Department at Mass General or at Tufts New England Medical Center or send them for oncology at the Dana Farber Institute.

It was just a magnificent area and I was really annoyed, so much so that I went and I saw Senator Ted Kennedy at the time and told him that I just, you know, I really didn't care for this closure at all and it was wrong. And he said, "Well, don't be concerned about it, it's going to happen whether you do anything or not." So I testified before the committee, the Senate Committee, relative to the closure of the hospital and at the same time the Surgeon General had advised me, he said, "Jim," he said "Don't bother going over and testifying." He said, "It's going to happen anyway. It's already a done deal. Kennedy has already sold it out, so it's finished." And I said, "Well, I couldn't do that." So I testified against the closure of the hospital.

Why did Kennedy sell it out do you think?

I don't think that he had enough power to maintain it. In other words, I think that he felt that it would be expending too much of his political monetary chest to go ahead and try to save it. He didn't anyway, that was it. And with that then that kind of essentially we stayed then, well, we had had one child then. And in '75 we were going to have another child, so at that particular point in my career I said, gee, you know, I'm going to probably stay here in Massachusetts and I had actually applied for a couple of positions.

One, I applied for the Graduate Training Director for Lahey Clinic and was accepted. They offered me the job there. And then Blue Cross-Blue Shield wanted a Vice President of Medical Affairs for Massachusetts Blue Cross-Blue Shield and they had offered me the position there. So when Admiral Osborne called me up and said "Jim," he said, "We've got two positions that we would like to have you consider. Would you go as a Chief of Medicine at Philadelphia Naval Hospital or not that, how about becoming the Chief of Medicine at Oakland Naval Hospital."

And I told him quite bluntly, I said, "Admiral, I have one more year to do in the Navy and from my point of view of I'll go there. I'll go and do my job at Philadelphia as best I can or I'll go and do my job at Oakland as best I can." I said "Either one of them," but I said, "I'm going to go ahead and leave the Navy in another year and I'm going to come back to Massachusetts. So it would be just as well to keep my family and I here in Massachusetts

allowing us to go ahead and stabilize before I got out of the Navy.” And Dave Osborne was very nice. He said, “Okay, I hear what you're saying,” and I got orders to the Naval Air Station in South Weymouth for my last year in the Navy.

Then I went from there to . . . I felt I could do the most good, probably the most good, if I went to Blue Cross-Blue Shield as their Vice President and Medical Director which I did for the next 14 years. Then I retired from there in I think it was 1989 I think it was and then I went to the Harvard School of Public Health and taught in the School of Public Health for another two years and it was boring. I did research and it just was too boring, so I went back to the practice of medicine after that and I became the Chief of Medicine and Associate Medical Director at a 220-bed rehabilitation hospital in Woburn, Massachusetts. And after completing that I retired totally. That was in 1995.

And that's when you went to New Hampshire?

In '96 we went to New Hampshire. Yes. Built our home in '95 and '96 and then came up to New Hampshire and have enjoyed being here ever since.

What do you do to occupy yourself now besides being a gentlemen farmer on your spread up there?

Well, I have contributed a little bit more. I've been involved with the Advisory Committee for . . . let's see, what is it called? We produced a publication called *Disability in U.S. Presidents -- Reports, Recommendations and Commentaries by the Working Group*. This Working Group was a group that was put together by Doctor James F. Toole at Wake Forest Bowman Gray Medical School and the individuals who were there, my God, there were all kinds of different individuals. We had Doctor E. Connie Mariano, who was the White House physician at the time President Clinton and then there were the representatives from the Museum of Health and Medicine, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. There were other individuals from Wake Forest, law schools, Herb Abrams M.D, Larry Altman M.D, George Annis J.D from Boston University, Senator Birch Bayh, Frank Davidoff M.D, David Drockman M.D, Joe English M.D from New York, Hugh E. Evans M.D, John Feerick LL.B who was the Dean of the Law School at Tulane.

Hugh Evans was there also you said?

Yes.

Yes, he's just finished a book you know?

Well, see, this is what happened. All of these individuals had written about the Presidency.

Right.

What we did is we sat down and were making recommendations. There were three meetings that were held. The last meeting was held in '96 and it had to do with the 25th Amendment and how to deal with it. And I was one of the individuals who was in there. And, of course, all of these people . . . you know, Arthur Link, who was a Ph.D. from Wake Forest in Political Science, Larry C. Mohr M.D who had been in the White House with, I think, Reagan

and Bush, Bert Park M.D who has written a book I think on that, Jonathan Rhoads M.D. All of these individuals were involved with the publication of this.

Well, it was an analysis on how you would go ahead and deal with the whole process of the disability and there was no real problem with the first section or the second section. The third section was the one that you turned it over to the Vice President, but the fourth section was the one that we had the most trouble with. And that fourth section, it's an amusing story, I was appointed by Doctor Toole as the Chairman of a group of four former White House physicians. E. Connie Mariano M.D wanted us to come over to the White House for lunch.

Well, this was very close to the lunchtime. And Jim Toole told me, he said, "Well after you come back from lunch, why don't you make a report of your committee on the recommendations that you would have relative to what the White House Physician's position or the Physician to the President's position, how he should be handled and what he should have as a position.

Well, we went over and, of course, Connie was just a delight. And we went over to the White House and she took us through the new areas and we had lunch in the White House Staff Mess and then after that, of course, all of the White House Staff mess attendants, everybody came over because all the Navy people were there still. They stay there for years and years and years in the White House Staff Mess, so people knew Doctor Mohr still and the other general who was there with us. Gosh, I've forgotten his name.

But anyway, so we didn't really get anything done at the time. We didn't really make any decisions. General John Hutton is the other individual's name.

He's over at Uniformed Services University now.

Is he really?

He teaches over there.

Ah! Well, those were the individuals who were on my committee and the members of the "Working Group" wanted to have, you know, a recommendation as to how the White House Physician should be treated and what position he should be and to make recommendations is really what it amounted to. And we had a lovely lunch. There was no question about that. But we didn't do anything. I mean we didn't do an evaluation about the report that we were supposed to make.

Well, we got back to the meeting area and I had to sit down and immediately, because I was a chairman of the group. I had to sit down immediately and I roughed out some seven different recommendations and I brought them over and Connie and John and Larry and myself when we discussed them, there was hardly anything that was changed on what I had put down. They all agreed to it and this I did within 10 minutes and now it's theirs, the report by former and current military physicians assigned to the White House regarding recommendation number six.

And what's become of the law since then? Anything?

We presented it . . . or we didn't present it. Jim Toole and the Professor from Wake Forest . . . Link, Professor Link, presented it to President Clinton, all the information and it's in a booklet form published by Wake Forest. Oh, I think the Wake Forest Medical whatever it is. Bowman Gray Scientific Press, that's what it is. And nothing's been done with it as far as I know. I have no idea.

But I also now have contributed a chapter in a book also that's called *Managing Crisis* that was put out last Fall as a matter of fact and is edited by Robert Gilbert who is the Professor of Political Science at Northeastern. It's called *Managing Crisis -- Presidential Disability and the 25th Amendment*. And, of course, he knew me because he was on that same "working group" and evaluated that whole process. And on top of that I've obviously been having speaking engagements up here, both high schools and I've got all these memorabilia, of course, that I can bring out and it impacts the youngsters very nicely.

But, in general, with eight children and 12 grandchildren with a 13th on the way and holidays, it just I'll tell you it takes up my time. I'm a very good gardener. I've got a lovely vegetable garden that I take care of. I've got 25 acres and we're on a river edge, just a delight right now.

Sounds wonderful.

Well, it's kind of a nirvana. It really is lovely.

Yes.

And all I can say is I've enjoyed retirement, of course.

Well, we can honestly say we've enjoyed our interviews with you. They've been wonderful, just filled with good detail and I don't know whether you have lots of notes or not, but you're remarkable as far as detail. We've gotten some terrific material from you.

Well, I haven't gone by any notes or anything.

Well, you have a remarkable memory I can tell you. I'll tell you what we're going to do at this point. We're going to make a transcript. We've got, I think, we have six hour and a half tapes.

Yes. Well, I'm glad I ran across you because I've done this in tape for my . . . well, what I'm going to do is probably send it to the National Archives after. That's what my intent was when I dictated all this material and I had one of my daughters type it into her computer and now I've got it on my computer and I've got part of it edited as well. But, well, I've been fortunate obviously in having still a good, sharp memory and remembering all the things that go on.

Right, and I would say a marvelous career.

I have to agree with you. I think it's been as Jimmy Stewart indicated in *It's a Wonderful Life*.

I hope the next time I come to New England I'm going to stop and see you. I'd love to visit with you.

I would hope that you would. I would love to know how to go ahead and get . . . I'm in my library, of course, and I'm looking up at some of the things that were given to me from the White House when I was there. And I see my picture of the White House with the balloons and whatnot going off that was given to me by the Social Secretary from Mrs. Johnson and all. I've got lots of pictures and look over at another wall. And I see George Hallenbeck, Jim Cain and Bill Moyers in a picture in the Cabinet Room, next to which is "Bugsy Snurfel" and Herb Block's cartoon about the President and the Secretary of Defense and others who have been struck down by the flu. That was when he was in for his bronchitis.

Yes.

Below which is a picture of George Reedy and his signed comment. I never did tell you that I went with President Truman also and I went over to Greece with he and Mrs. Johnson.

LBJ sent him over there, didn't he, for a funeral?

That's correct. That's right, for King Paul of Greece's funeral.

Right.

I was the doctor who went with him.

Wow.

And I've got some stories about Harry that are just remarkable as well. I don't know if you've got time to do it now.

No, I'll tell you, we're out of tape for the day, but I'll tell you what. If you don't mind we could call you and do a special interview and you can talk about that trip to Greece and talk about Harry.

Right. I think that's remarkable because there's a couple of beautiful stories about him.

Interview 6

[interview in progress]

Some of the stuff, believe it or not, now my wife at the time though was Bettylu Jones Young and she had written during that period that we were in the White House a kind of a diary of things that have gone on. And I decided that I would go back in it and take a look at some of the things that were there. I'm going to go through the stuff that I have relative to our trip to Greece. That trip to Greece was for King Paul of Greece's funeral and President Johnson could not go at the time because apparently he felt that some of the activities that were going on he needed to stay in Washington, D.C.

So that what occurred was he decided that he would send his wife, Lady Bird, and then because President Truman had gained so much popularity because of the Marshall Plan in Greece, he asked President Truman to go over and escort her as well. And, of course, President Truman agreed. So in March of '64 we departed from Washington, D.C. Andrews Air Force Base late in the afternoon and we arrived in Athens, Greece, the following morning at about a quarter to nine.

Actually it was a full night . . . well, as you can imagine it's about a six hour difference I think in time, so we arrived there maybe ten o'clock in the evening our time and it was eight forty-five in the morning their time. Anyway, when I got there they put us up in the Athens Hilton. And the Athens Hilton at that time was marvelous because I had a balcony that I could walk out on and I would look up and I could actually just look right across the view of the city and there was the Acropolis just in my view.

It was just a beautiful room. And on the credenza that they had in the room they had put on there a great, huge, and I mean huge, maybe a three foot diameter bouquet of flowers and then

next to that sat a completely full basket of fruit of all different varieties. Next to it stood bottles of, oh my God, Chivas Regal Scotch, Beefeaters Gin, Jack Daniels, Sour Mash, Ouzo (Greek National Drink), Coca-Cola, it was just marvelous.

Then at that time, of course, I was pretty much impressed because I hadn't even been at the White House a full year and so I walked into the bathroom and, my gosh, the bathroom was just remarkable because it was wall-to-wall pink marble tile. I mean pink marble all the way around. It was just a fantastic bathroom. I was really quite impressed, let me tell you. So I went over to the bed and I kicked off my shoes and I flopped down on the bed, just laid out, and I just enjoyed the whole aspect of it.

Well, in so doing I was lying there very comfortably and the telephone rang. And on the other end of the telephone it said, "Doctor Young?" I answered the phone "Doctor Young." And he said, "Doctor Young, he said, this is Harry Truman." I said "Yes, Mister President, what can I do for you?" "Well," he said, "You know I'm over here and I've got a Secret Service agent with me and I don't have any of my old buddies from Independence or we would be probably sitting down and playing poker. But they're not here." He said, "Are you doing anything?" [laughter] And I said, "No, sir, I'm not. I just plopped down on the bed and kicked off my shoes." He said "Well, if you're not doing anything why don't you just walk out the door and come down the hallway and come on in and we'll sit and shoot the breeze for awhile." Certainly. So I popped on my shoes and I walked down the hallway, we were all on the 12th floor, and he had a beautiful suite of rooms there. I walked in and I sat down with him on the couch and for the next hour and a half we talked about my career as a matter of fact. And then we talked about what he felt were his three most important decisions that he had made in the White House. He elaborated on them quite extensively, I have to say, because his first major decision he felt was the dropping of the atomic bomb.

The second greatest decision he made was the Marshall Plan, which he felt had saved the entirety of Europe from going Communist. And the third was his firing of MacArthur. And elaborating on the issue of firing MacArthur, he had he said basically that General George Marshall had advised him that MacArthur was going to cause him significant problems and that he should get rid of him way, way, way before in the early period after the war. And President Truman stayed with MacArthur and didn't change him until the problems occurred in Japan about Korea.

So this was even before the Korean War broke out? This was while MacArthur was over in Tokyo as the leader over there?

That's correct, yes. Yes, it was really quite insightful as far as President Truman was concerned. But then at that same time I had warned both Mrs. Johnson and President Truman that they should be very, very careful and that they shouldn't eat any salads or seafood because there was problems with diarrhea that occurred over there frequently.

Well, on the following morning I think it was President Truman called me and he said Doctor Young, he said I don't think I followed your advice very well. He said I've been up part of the night having diarrhea. He said do you have something? [laughter]

And, of course, I did. I gave him some enterovioform which calmed things down and controlled the situation very nicely. But he said he had eaten some salad and that was probably what occurred.

At that time he also began to discuss, when I went down to his room, he also began to discuss the issues relative to General MacArthur. And this was after, apparently, General MacArthur with his arrogance and coming to pay respects of the Commander in Chief, he obviously didn't do very well in Hawaii when the President went out to see him and he walked around and delayed coming to the President's aircraft.

This was when they met on Wake Island?

Maybe that was Wake and maybe not Hawaii, right.

Yes.

That's exactly right.

But he did go into some detail about that?

Oh, yes, he did. He was angry. Oh boy, he was burned up about the situation. He did not, and I mean this with a capital DID NOT and underscored, he did not like General MacArthur. There was just no getting around it. He had apparently been fed up with him, but of course Harry Truman was remarkable in his opinions and his analyses. Really he was quite significant. While we were in Greece, it was of some interest that all the Greeks called him "Onca" Truman. And I don't know how you spell that, but it obviously means Uncle Truman because they had revered him so highly because apparently he had done a great deal for Greece and had saved them from getting into major problems. At the funeral there was one thing . . . there was a Bishop Makarios at the time.

Archbishop Makarios from Cyprus.

Yes, that's right.

Yes.

Cyprus. He was giving trouble to, well, to the political status of what was going on I think. And I think it was the new king was called Constantine if I recall correctly. And he was kind of moving in to kind of take power away from King Constantine to some degree. Anyway, at the church in front of the church where the King had his funeral ceremony done with all the high-distinguished people, Makarios drove up and parked on the opposite side of a triangle just outside the church.

But instead of going directly into the church, he was maybe at the apex of the triangle, he walked all the way around the entire triangular grassy area in front of the church, taking the accolades of the crowd and waving to them as he went around. And there was a considerable amount of applause from the crowd as he went around.

This was . . . well, I saw this because I was sitting in the Secret Service car. I did not go into the church because it was relatively small and there was no need for me to go in. But this really did not give me a very positive impression of Bishop Makarios. But all along the way, we went from there to the summer palace where King Paul was buried and that was . . . all along the way was lined by the Greek people. And you could hear, because we were going relatively slowly and we had the windows in the car open, and you could hear the people along the way talking about Mrs. Johnson and then they would say "Onca" Truman. They were about four-to-one "Onca" Trumans to one Mrs. Johnson. It was very interesting.

And Mrs. Johnson made a number of tours and I went with her. We went to the Agora and walked around the ruins there. We went into the Agora Museum. I've got pictures of all of this from the White House photographer. And then we departed. I guess it was maybe three or four days we were there.

When we went from, well, this time we went from Athens, we flew into Shannon. Apparently going west, it takes a lot longer and takes more gasoline, so they had to do a gas-up in Shannon, Ireland. And we came back in Air Force One with a belly full of Chivas Regal. This is the bourbon and branch water that President Johnson used to drink.

[laughter] He had enough to supply him for awhile then.

He had a good bit. Of course, it was very inexpensive over there and coming back through you can get it through Customs with Air Force One without any problem. It was a little bit distasteful but, you know, these things the politicians do.

Yes. Did you have any more conversations with the President, with President Truman on that?

Yes, I did as a matter of fact. Out of Shannon, that's where I was going to get to the next point, out of Shannon Airport we were going over the Atlantic. And at that time obviously I had announced to everybody that they ought to have their immunization tickets ready because we had to go back into the States and the Service would want to go ahead and check them in going back into the States.

Well, lo and behold, here comes President Truman's Secret Service man and he said Doctor Young, he said, we have a problem. I said, "Oh, what's that?" "Well," he said, "You know you indicated to us all that we had to have our immunization cards ready to go through to Customs when we get to the States." Because at that time everybody that went back into the United States was required, and this was a requirement, was required to have a smallpox vaccination or else you would not go back in the United States. Period. This was when we were wiping out the smallpox process by enforcing the whole aspect of having immunizations. Well, he came up to me and he said President Truman does not have his immunization card and he is not up-to-date on his smallpox vaccination. Well, fortunately for President Truman and me, I had already signed and stamped about three or four immunization cards before I had left the White House Dispensary or our White House offices. And all I had had to do would be to fill in the name at the top of the immunization card and it would be perfectly okay.

Well, so, I said to the Secret Service man, and I've forgotten his name, Mike something or other. I told him, I said, "All right." I said, "I'll give you this on one condition. And that is that President Truman go back and see his doctor, Wallace Graham, immediately upon getting back to Independence and that he immediately get a smallpox vaccination and that he notify me that he has done this if you wouldn't mind."

Well, he was so very grateful for the whole situation. He said, "Oh, delighted, he went back" and he gave the immunization card to President Truman and he came back and he thanked me profusely. And he said, "President Truman said he will see Wallace Graham immediately upon his return and he will write to you and tell you about it."

Subsequently I certainly did get a letter from him. But more significantly we had had a reception at the Greek Embassy and at the Greek Embassy President Truman had been the star of the show because he had gone to the piano and as usual, you know what he played, *The Missouri Waltz*.

The Missouri Waltz. Yes.

And he came over after *The Missouri Waltz* to me and obviously we had had contact about his enterovioform form and diarrhea before that and his discussion with me, and I subsequently learned that someplace in his family in the background there were others by the last name of Young which I didn't find out until I was reading some of these more recent books historically about him.

Anyway, I have a picture of President Truman and I in the embassy and the President is shaking my hand and he's pointing towards the camera saying "Now, Doctor Young, I want you to look over there and be very pleasant and smile." Well, obviously the picture was sent with his letter to me stating that he had had his smallpox vaccination and that nothing had occurred subsequently and he was feeling fine. So that's kind of the story with Harry Truman.

Well, what a privilege to have spent time with the man.

It was marvelous. He was just one of the most delightful . . . anyway, he was one of the most delightful people that you could ever imagine. Believe me. I mean down-to-earth, but at the same time very knowledgeable, very astute. We even had talked about Bishop Makarios and his situation there in Athens when we were there. But I've seen Mrs. Johnson during that time and I'd been with her. As I said we went through the Agora and the Museums and so forth, but .

..
Harry was the star though.

Oh, no question. He was the star and President Johnson had seen fit to do the job with him in that sense. I don't know, did I say anything about Janet Travell in the past? I may or may not have mentioned it.

Yes, you mentioned how she had gotten connected with President Kennedy and how she had been able to take care of his back problem and the fact that she remained a controversial figure in the White House for a long time.

Yes, did I mention about Sam Rayburn?

You mentioned that he had a back problem, but it turned out that she treated it but it was cancerous.

That's right, exactly.

Yes.

Well, that was the one thing I wasn't sure that I had made a comment about.

Yes, you had.

Good. Well, I don't think that I mentioned that Bill Voss was coming in at the end of my stay there.

No, you didn't. You didn't mention your successor.

William Voss, Bill Voss. He was I think a Commander at the time if I'm not mistaken. Lay Fox came in about six months before I left and Lay Fox had been . . . that's L-A-Y and his

middle initial is "M" I'm sure and as I told you, he's out in Silver Spring so you could even contact him to find out more historical aspects if you chose to.

Now his position, he was a physician also?

Yes, he was the Head of Cardiology at Bethesda before he came to the White House. In fact, there's a little story about that as well. There was one time during the period that he was there that the Johnsons were looking for Willis Hurst or President Johnson was, and J. Willis was, of course, the President's cardiologist at Bethesda when he had his heart attack and subsequently had been with me, you know, and so forth in the White House and we'd gone through the whole bit with the surgery, the gall bladder and whatnot. Well, they couldn't find Willis Hurst, they didn't know where he was. Well, lo and behold, he had been down to Nicaragua because apparently the President of Nicaragua had had a heart attack and he was called down there to treat him and unfortunately the gentleman had expired at that particular point. But another story about Lyndon Johnson, President Johnson used to enjoy driving his own automobile and he would drive it to certainly church on Sunday mornings generally up to Fredericksburg and in doing so . . .

You say up to . . . oh, this is when he was in Texas.

And went right in Texas, right.

Right, so Fredericksburg, Texas.

Right, in Washington, D.C. he would never drive. He was always driven by the Secret Service and the Secret Service went back up and he would only drive his own automobile in Texas where he was familiar with the roads and familiar with where he should go and he knew exactly what was going on. But this one time we made the newspapers on this one I can recall exactly, and this was typical of President Johnson's activities. He enjoyed driving his own open convertible, it was a Lincoln, a great big white one, and he would go like a bat out of hell. I mean he would travel 80 to 90 miles an hour going to Fredericksburg.

And this one Sunday we were going to Fredericksburg and, of course, I was in the Secret Service backup car and he kept right on going. But the Secret Service backup car hit a, I guess that someone had thrown out a Coke bottle. At that time the misshapen Coke bottles were used with a heavy top, a rounded top, and a narrow waist and the bottom. Well, somebody had thrown one out of a car apparently and it had broken and the bottom of the Coke bottle was upright in the middle of the road. President Johnson missed it, but the Secret Service car hit it and blew out a tire at that speed which was a little bit hazardous, of course. But then what happened was I was fortunate enough to be able . . . the Press car that followed us always, I was able to get into the Press car and follow him to the church that he went to.

Good Lord, so he was doing 80 miles an hour when he hit the bottle.

80 to 90 miles an hour, but he didn't hit it.

But the Secret Service car, you had to be going...

The Secret Service car hit it and almost banged off the side of the road.

I mean he had to be going the same speed to keep up with the President.

You're exactly right.

Wow.

Thank God the President had a very good driver and, of course, he was driving in an open convertible that day.

Yes.

But that's kind of how . . . he spit in the face of fate essentially, not infrequently. To show the power LBJ had in Texas, I want to relate a short anecdote. One night when I was at the ranch, I got a call from the President. This was about 2:00 AM. He said that Vicki McGammon was at Johnson City Hospital and that she had had an accident and he wanted me to pick her up and bring her back to the ranch. I immediately drove to the tiny Johnson City Hospital where she had been taken. Skull x-rays had been taken and were negative. She had been wearing her seat belt but by celebrating in Austin, she had drunk far too much and was totally inebriated. Her brand new (just a few weeks old) car had rolled over 3 times and was a total wreck. Nothing ever appeared in any news releases, newspapers, and television reports—nothing. The car was disposed of completely.

I stayed with Vicki the rest of the night in her bedroom in the main house checking her vital signs until others in the President's home were up and able to watch over her. No state highway patrol report was made or it may have been destroyed. The President had complete control on the suppression of the accident. Vicki was a young, very pretty "secretary" of President Johnson.

Yes. Did you ever attend any of those Texas barbecues he had on the ranch?

Oh God, yes. Well, we had barbecues not only on the ranch, but all over Texas, any number of places that you would go down there. I mean friends of his, you know, there was Judge A.W. Mowrsund who was there in Texas. Judge Mowrsund and President Johnson probably controlled most of the entire county that they lived in there because, good grief, they . . . and I told you about Cousin Oriole Bailey and how they wanted to get her land.

Right, and he built her a house you said.

Yes, he did build her a new house and the armadillos no longer were underneath that. [laughter] But, well, I have to tell you also about one of the other things. I was reading this write-up that my wife had made of the White House just to refresh a bit. And she mentioned in there almost for . . . I would have to say almost for a year-and-a-half to two years I was trying to get out of the White House to get back to academic medicine. And George Burkley did not want me to go and Jim Cain who was the individual from Mayo consistently wanted me to . . . actually when I left, he wanted me to give him assurance that I would come back and be Physician to the President when I came back. And I told him, "No way." I didn't want it, I wanted to get back to academic medicine and that was it.

While I was in the White House, of interest, I had met on occasion an individual by the name of Jack Lippes, L-I-P-P-E-S. Well, Jack Lippes was in the Navy, and had been the obstetrician gynecologist at Bethesda who delivered my wife when my wife and I had our first eldest child, Anne. And I met him on a plane coming back from Texas one time and he sat beside me and we got to discussing things. And the reason he was going back to Washington,

D.C. was that he was going to be presenting to an individual group at the State Department an opportunity.

Now this is the strangest thing and, of course, he being a former Naval officer and he having delivered our first child, you know, we had quite a relationship. But, more significantly, Jack Lippes was the inventor of the Lippes Loop. I don't know whether you've ever heard of it.

No.

The Lippes Loop was the first intrauterine device to prevent pregnancy and he had invented it after he had gotten out of the Navy, and he was being called back to Washington, D.C. to talk to the State Department. Because what they wanted to do was to have him formulate a loop and then they were going to take the loop and go over to India and with all the sacred female cows they were going to place Lippes Loops in the cows.

Wow.

Do you know why? No, you don't know why. The reason is that in India they were so short of food that the major problem was that the cattle, they could not chase them away from gardens and what not because they were sacred and they would eat up the gardens and, thus, destroy the crops. So they wanted to control these sacred cattle and their population and reduce it but they couldn't kill them because they were sacred.

Right.

So the only way that they could control the issue would be by controlling the population and reducing them by putting in loops. Anyway, he was coming back. I thought that would be an interesting sidelight.

Did it work?

Apparently. I don't know. I never contacted him subsequently. I never did. There was another occasion that George Burkley was coming into the White House when he and I were there alone, just the two of us. And we both had these White House Staff cars, I guess you would call them, but they were from the White House fleet with radios and so forth so we could keep in contact. But one morning and this got to be some of the problem between Doctor Burkley and me -- he was difficult, let's put it that way. And he would not tell me the truth and he wouldn't inform me of certain things that would be going on and this got to be a chronic problem with him. But on getting to the White House he always wanted to be there first and he didn't like to get in second.

For some reason this one morning I got there before him and as I got into West Executive Drive I would always call in and say this is Sunburn or whatever my "call" name was at that time and I was calling Carpet and I said this is a sign-off. Then I would just close off the car and shut it down and left the keys in the car. And eventually one of the individuals from the White House garage would come over and take the car back to the White House garage because it was not parked at West Executive Drive all day.

So that particular morning I can remember very distinctly. It was kind of an embarrassing point for George Burkley because he got in after I did. And after he got in he apparently was on the road very close to me and he came up into West Executive Drive and parked his car and ran into the offices where we had our offices there. In about ten or fifteen

minutes there was a telephone call that came in, and it was coming in from the garage, it was coming in from so-called "Carpet." And they said, "We want to talk with Doctor Burkley" and he came on the phone and I overheard the conversation and the individual asked him whether he was going to go and use his car again and Doctor Burkley said, "No, no." He said, "You can pick it up and take it back." And the individual at the other end of the phone said, "Well, we wondered whether you were going to use it or not because we saw it in the West Executive Drive and its motor was still running." [laughter] He had hurried out of his car.

Without turning the engine off. [laughter]
He had forgotten to turn the engine off.

Did he beat you in by running.
No.

He didn't?
No, he didn't.

Well, he must have been really . . .
Unfortunately, no.

Sounds like a peculiar character.

He was a very, very . . . well, very difficult in my estimation because he wouldn't tell me things and then he would hide certain concepts and then he felt paranoid about me, really, truly and that's what drove me out of the White House. I would have stayed there, but he stayed, my goodness, for the entirety of President Johnson's tour there. He stayed in from '64; he stayed until 1970.

Wow. I guess now that you're retired and you probably think about those times a lot, don't you?

Well, not really. I don't think about them. I come back and right now I'm going through my White House memorabilia and, oh God, it's very difficult. I can't get anybody to evaluate it. You know, I've got some, I guess, 69 different pieces of material, such as things off of the White House Christmas tree, ornaments, because I just saw these at Christmas time. And I've got things from Jacqueline Kennedy, I've got things signed from Bobby Kennedy and Christmas cards from the White House that were sent out and I even have one that President Kennedy and Jacqueline were going to use for their next year's Christmas card. It was a picture of the Red Room in the same fashion that they had done the Green Room and the Blue Room. Well, anyway, we got those all framed, of course, and hanging on the wall. And I've just been going through that and in going through it. Of course, a lot of the memories keep coming back because what I'm trying to do is to get it appraised for purposes of putting some kind of insurance on it. And I can't get anybody up here to do it so I'm going to have to go to Sotheby's or Christie's probably. And I've called and talked with them because I've also called and talked with Frank Rigg down at the Kennedy Museum and they don't do any of that, but he suggested that I go to Sotheby's. Anyway, I've been going through this. Obviously, some of the things come back and memories are renewed about all sorts of different things.

Yes.

Thus, it reflects on my memory as well.

Well, I say for the number of hours that we've spent together you have a remarkable memory and the detail is just astounding. What a story.

Well, I'm delighted that some of it is going to go down. As I told you before, I've dictated a considerable number of tapes as a matter of fact, and my daughter has put them on a hard disk. And I've been going through some of that, also trying to, well, refurbish and make sure that the spelling of, you know, like Adenauer and other individuals, you know, were there. And making the spelling correct as far as what's going on into the tape or at least what's going on to the disk.

Have you . . . you have talked with Tom Mills?

Yes.

You know, I mentioned to you, I know, that I had sent off to Senator Specter.

Yes, the letter you had sent. You had sent your recollections the day after.

Yes, "What Price a Rose?" exactly.

Yes.

And in that the bent bullet issue.

Right.

And did you get anything out of Tom Mills about that bullet?

Nothing. He wouldn't talk about it. I mentioned the fact that he had gone back and gotten the bullet and I said do you remember that. And he said, "Yes, I remember it." I asked if he could shed any light on it whatsoever. He said, "No, I'd rather not talk about it."

You know, this is a tragedy because of the fact that, you know, that third bullet is still missing.

Yes, you mentioned the fact you'd never seen it again.

Yes.

And you said you'd mentioned it to Specter more recently and also sent a letter to Gerry Ford who sat on the Commission and he knew nothing about it.

That's exactly right. I haven't followed up my, oh, it was August of last year, letter to Senator Specter with a copy of *What Price A Rose?* narrative and called it to his attention. But I have not gotten anything back from him yet and I'm just about to send him another letter to see what has been done, if anything, in that particular respect.

Yes, well we were somewhat disappointed that Tom Mills didn't have anything further to say. He seemed very leery about talking with us at the beginning and we only, very, very slowly were able to get information. But there were certain subjects he was very sensitive about, and that was one of them.

Well, he's always been that way. He was that way when he was in the White House. He was more, I guess, attuned to Doctor Burkley's approach to things because even Doctor Burkley's notes about treating the President, you know, and his dictation of notes, where are they? God only knows where they are.

Yes.

I have no idea, but I did not dictate notes when I was there because it was George Burkley who was the one that was supposed to dictate the notes.

I know that Doctor Burkley died about, I want to say, 10 or 12 years ago to my recollection, something like that.

Yes.

And he was apparently living in this vicinity, either living in Rockville or Bethesda, somewhere in this neighborhood and I only heard about him after his death.

Yes.

He left a family. We could probably track the family down and see if there were any papers.

You know, that's a possibility too. I doubt that they would have any of his notes. President Johnson's library may have some.

So Johnson promoted him to Rear Admiral and then he was promoted to Vice before he retired? That's right.

Was that a tombstone promotion?

No, I think it was before tombstone.

Well, he would have been the only other one besides the Surgeon General.

That is absolutely correct. Absolutely correct.

In fact, I'm thinking that the Surgeon General at that time was a Rear Admiral. I think Admiral Brown was the first Vice Admiral.

Well, Bob Brown was there during that period, sure.

Yes.

Jiggs Canada, of course, was the Deputy Surgeon General, he was the individual who was my Chief of Medicine as I said before.

Yes. Because Admiral Brown in order for parity with the other services, with the Army especially . . .

That's right.

He became a Vice Admiral and he was the first Surgeon General to be . . . well, I shouldn't say that because Ross McIntire was a Vice Admiral.

That's right, yes, you're right. Absolutely.

But it reverted back to Rear Admiral when . . .
The war was over.

When the war was over.
That's right. Yes, no question about it.

So that was a temporary promotion.
Yes, that was by FDR.

Right.
But the situation with George Burkley ... a similar situation occurred with Jim Underwood Cross. Jim Cross was in the Air Force and was the pilot for LBJ and he came in as a Lieutenant Colonel and I'm pretty sure he went out as Lieutenant General.

Not bad.
No, not bad at all. But this was what President Johnson would do with individuals because he was in that format. He would reward individuals for being loyal and adhering to his designs and whatnot. That was very, very appropriate from what his activities were.

Okay, well, Doctor Young, thanks so much. I can't thank you enough for all the time you've spent with us. It's been a privilege to hear these stories from you. And as soon as we get this ready we'll send it up and I'd sure like to come up and see you sometime up in New Hampshire and visit with you.

I would be so pleased if you could because, you know, I sit here in my library surrounded by pictures, you know, of Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson, Hubert Humphrey, George Reedy, Bill Moyers. I didn't tell you some of the things about Bill Moyers I can tell you in confidence at a later point.

Sure, well, that'll be an excuse to come up and see you so you can tell me about Bill Moyers.
Yes, it would be because that was one of the reasons that I left the White House, another reason. But that one is not going to be on tape.

Okay, well we'll certainly . . . we'll do that one off the record.
It's in my wife's diary, believe it or not, in going through it. She's got it written down in there. But there's no firm commentary that's made and at this time Bill Moyers is still very active and still on PBS and very prominently so I wouldn't want anything out.

Okay, very good.
Okay.

Well, thanks again, Doctor Young.
Okay.

Is there any snow on the ground up there right now?

Well, I'm looking out at five inches that we've got.

Wow.

Very beautifully . . . we're melting today, we're in our January thaw.

Yes, well we've got a thaw here. It's almost 50 degrees here and warm. So keep the fire going.
Yes.

And we'll talk to you again soon I hope.
Okay, thank you again Jim.

Take care.
Right.

Thanks, good bye.
Bye bye.

FIN.